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20P

THE TIMES

No. 65,215

WEDNESDAY MARCH 15 1995

Clinton's phone calls to Major go unanswered



Clinton: he rang and then sent a letter

Erosion of goodwill feared in Whitehall

By MICHAEL BIVON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR'S angry re-buff to President Clinton over the Gerry Adams visit highlights a deepening concern in Whitehall that the row is much more than another example of a spat between friends. Many now believe that tectonic plates in the relationship have moved. British and American interests are diverging so fast, officials believe, that it is becoming difficult to recognise the common ground that for more than 40 years made the Anglo-American relationship uniquely close. The changes have been exacerbated by the Clinton Administration, especially in the quarrels over Bosnia and Ireland. But officials believe that unless a supreme effort is made to get relations on a better footing, the goodwill that bound the two countries together may be eroded for ever.

Officials have been holding intensive talks throughout Whitehall, to analyse what has gone wrong. The main concern is that without a solid political relationship, not only will transatlantic co-operation become more fraught, but that burgeoning trade relations between Britain and America may suffer. Britain is

Continued on page 2, col 2

Rift deepens over Adams visit to US

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON, ARTHUR LEATHLEY
IN AMMAN AND PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE deepening rift between Britain and America was exposed last night with the disclosure that John Major has kept President Clinton waiting for four days to talk about the Gerry Adams visit to Washington.

Administration officials said yesterday that Mr Clinton had first tried to telephone Mr Major last Saturday, the day after Mr Major sent him an angry letter about his decision to allow Mr Adams to raise funds in the United States, but the day before the Prime Minister flew to the Middle East.

Sources in Washington believe that a furious Mr Major has been trying to punish Mr Clinton for ignoring the advice of No 10 and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, not to give the Sinn Féin president the red carpet treatment.

Downing Street officials confirmed in Amman that the White House had made contact on Saturday but that there had been no conversation. They said that the White House had been told that Mr Major was busy preparing for his trip. They suggested it had been arranged the two leaders would get in touch after his return. Government sources also confirmed that the White House had again been in touch with Mr Major's travelling party on Monday while he was in Jerusalem.

Throughout yesterday the explanation given by Mr Major and his officials was that a conversation had been difficult to arrange because of the differing schedules of the two leaders and the need to have secure telephone lines.

Mr Major, visiting Gaza

City, said: "I have been fairly mobile, but the President and I speak often. If he wishes to speak to me he will speak — that is equally true the other way round. If he has been pursuing me I'm sure he'll find me soon, indeed we will make sure he does."

Mr Major and Mr Clinton are expected to hold a clear-the-air telephone conversation today, when the Prime Minister returns to London, or tomorrow.

The President's inability to make contact with Mr Major was considered extraordinary in diplomatic circles given the sophistication of modern communications. Last night it emerged that unable to talk directly to Mr Major, Mr Clinton had sent the Prime Minister what American officials described as a "conciliatory" letter designed to repair the extraordinary open rift.

However Mr Clinton's letter failed explicitly to respond to a key demand that Mr Major had made in his letter — that the President should press Mr Adams during their two meetings this week to start decommissioning the IRA's arsenal.

Administration sources said the thrust of Mr Clinton's message was that he and Mr Major shared the same goal of peace in Northern Ireland though they disagreed on tactics.

The President acknowledged the political risks Mr Major had taken to advance the peace process, but explained why he had decided to invite Mr Adams and let him raise funds. He believed Mr Adams's March 8 statement expressing his willingness to discuss the decommissioning

of weapons with British ministers was an important step forward, and said America would watch closely to see whether the Sinn Féin leader followed through on it. He argued that Washington could best use its influence over Sinn Féin by reaching out to Mr Adams.

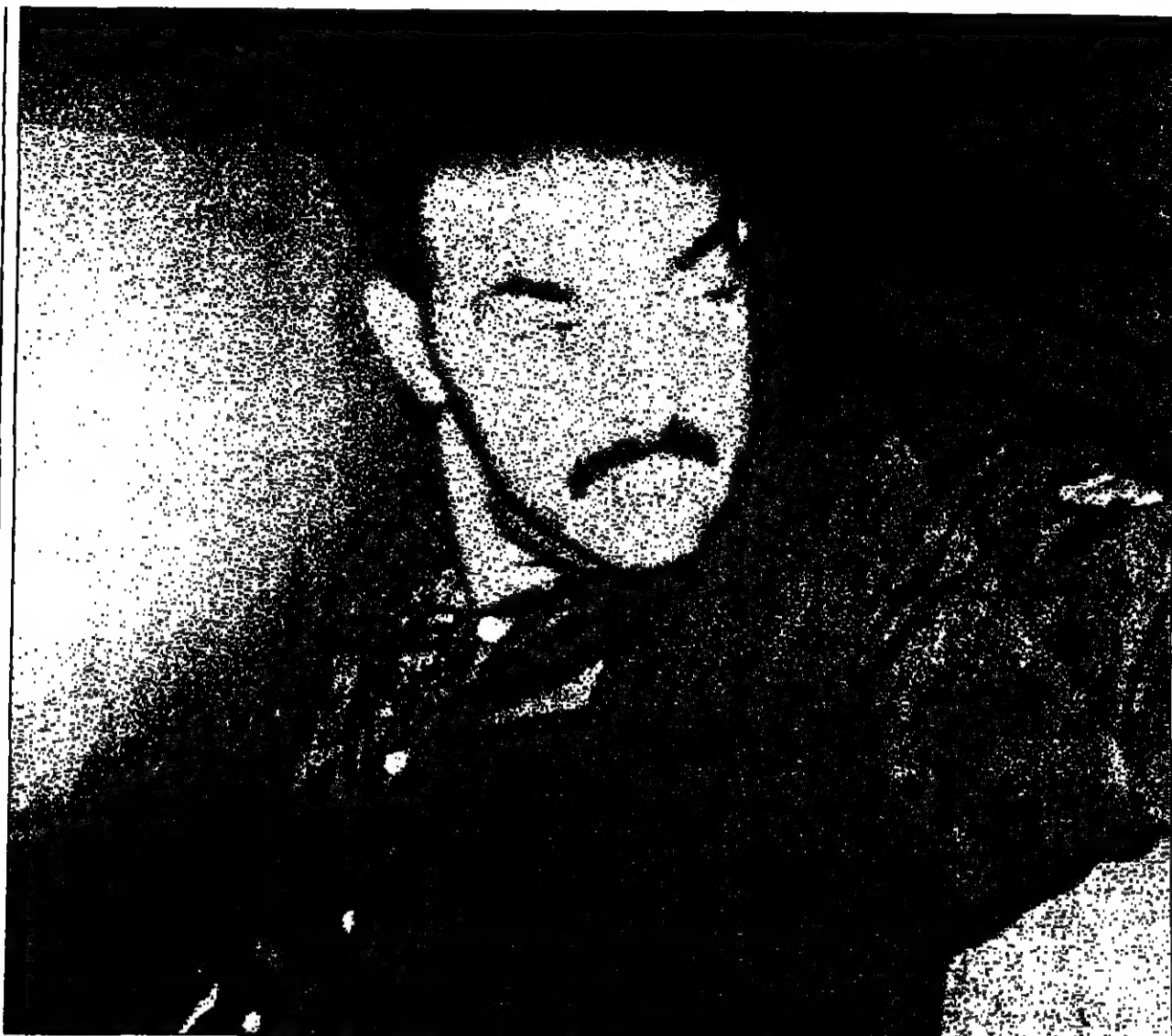
Mr Major, who was making an historic visit to Gaza to meet Yasser Arafat, insisted yesterday there was no rift. He said: "We write and we speak regularly. I have no doubt that we will speak over the course of the next few days. The President and I speak often. If he wishes to speak to me we will speak. That is clearly true the other way round."

Conservative anger over Mr Clinton's decision to see Mr Adams surfaced in the Commons. James Gunning, MP for Gillingham, said the move had struck a "grave blow" to the special relationship between Britain and America. Tony Newton, the Commons Leader, who was standing in at question time for Mr Major, underlined the depth of irritation within the Government.

He said the American Administration had been left in "no doubt" about the Government's view. "What is important is that the pressure should be maintained on all sides on Sinn Féin to engage in constructive discussions."

Mr Adams arrived in Washington yesterday to open a Sinn Féin office as a concrete symbol of his organisation's new legitimacy in America. It was "the beginning of the most significant engagement between our party and mainstream political opinion here."

Arafat meeting, page 12



Bruce Grobbelaar is driven from his home in a police car yesterday after being interviewed by detectives

Football stars held in gambling syndicate bribery investigation

By LIN JENKINS, JOHN GOODBODY AND STEWART TENDLER

TWO of English football's most flamboyant stars, Bruce Grobbelaar and John Fashanu, were among five people arrested yesterday by detectives investigating allegations of bribery and match fixing for Far Eastern gambling syndicates.

Hans Segers, Wimbledon's Dutch goalkeeper and Melissa Kassa-Mapsi, Mr Fashanu's girlfriend, were also being held by police after a four-month investigation. A Malaysian businessman named as Heng Suan Lim, who has lived in Britain for at least three years, was arrested at his home in north London.

News of the arrests came as English football headed towards the end of one of its most wretched seasons with the re-emergence of crowd violence and a stream of allegations of sleaze and corruption.

Last night Hampshire detectives said they could not rule out further arrests. The five were held after police

launched a series of early morning raids and were kept over night in separate Hampshire police stations. They are expected to face further questioning today.

Detective Chief Inspector Rod Davis, heading the police team, said the five had been arrested "on suspicion of being involved in a conspiracy to defraud, connected to allegations of corruption involving football league matches. The operation going on will expand the inquiry from that which began in Hampshire some time ago."

As news of the arrests broke, the Football Association said: "We remain convinced that corruption is not rife in our national sport. To suggest that it is can be no more, no less, than a slur on the integrity of professional players who represent clubs up and down the country. The recent that slur they are right to do so."

The FA statement went on: "But they also know if there is

any hint of corruption in the game, it must be disposed of. That is what the current police investigation is doing."

Police launched simultaneous early morning raids on the homes of Mr Grobbelaar, the 37-year-old Southampton and former Liverpool goalkeeper and Mr Segers, 33, in Hampshire and Miss Kassa-Mapsi and Mr Suan Lim in London. Mr Fashanu, 32, the former Wimbledon striker who now plays for Aston Villa, was arrested later in the day at a friend's home in Tamworth

near Birmingham. Mr Fashanu, who is also a star of the *Gladiators* television series and a successful businessman, was driven to a police station in Hampshire. Mr Lim was arrested at his home in Kilburn, north London. Neighbours said he had lived in Britain for at least three years and once described

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Rob Hughes, page 42
Football's reaction, page 48

400 troops withdrawn from Ulster

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government kept up its pressure for peace in Northern Ireland yesterday with the announcement that 400 soldiers would be withdrawn from the Province this month.

It is the first major reduction in troop levels since the IRA and loyalist ceasefires in September and October last year. But the caution of Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, in withdrawing a relatively small number of troops was justified yesterday when 150 loyalist inmates rioted at the Maze Prison, Co. Down.

One prison officer was seriously injured and 17 others were wounded when inmates

from the Ulster Volunteer Force got on to the roofs of two accommodation blocks. They started fires in the blocks and hoisted the UVF flag.

The riot came hours before Sir Patrick announced the withdrawal of the soldiers, from the 5th Regiment Royal Artillery. He said that the troops, who have been based at Drumadd barracks in Armagh City since last September, would return to Marne barracks in Catterick, North Yorkshire, within the next two weeks.

The soldiers, who had been due to return to the mainland next month, will remain on short notice stand-by to return to the Province if violence breaks out. The unit which

had been due to replace them will remain on stand-by.

Sir Patrick, who acted on the advice of Sir Hugh Annesley, the Chief Constable of the RUC, and Lieutenant-General Sir Roger Wheeler, the Army General Officer Commanding in Northern Ireland, said he had decided to withdraw the unit as a result of the two ceasefires.

He said: "This decision has been taken solely on the basis of the operational judgment of the security forces' commanders. It reflects the improved security situation and is a further step towards normality."

The Northern Ireland Secretary added that the decision could quickly be reversed. Up

to 18,000 troops are still stationed in the Province, and Sir Patrick said the Government would continue to provide Sir Hugh with as much military support as the RUC needed.

The withdrawal is the latest in a series of "de-escalatory measures" which have been introduced since the IRA and loyalist ceasefires.

Troops no longer patrol in Belfast during the day, and soldiers now only patrol during daylight in border areas.

Sir Patrick underlined the dramatic reduction in the security presence when he said: "For the first time in many years, large parts of the Province are being patrolled by the

Continued on page 2, col 6

Retail sales fail to pick up, CBI says

By PHILIP BASSETT AND SUSAN GILCHRIST

HIGH street sales last month suffered their largest drop since August 1992, according to the Confederation of British Industry.

The fall will have disappointed retailers who had expected business to pick up after a flat January. The CBI's gloomy distributive trades survey coincided with the first fall in profits at Kingfisher, the Woolworth and Comet retailer, during its 13-year history. Profits fell from £309 million to £244 million in the year to the end of January.

City economists, however, expect a small rise in sales volumes to be recorded in official government figures

due out today along with the latest jobsless figures. But many high street retailers have had difficulties in recent months, with Rumbelows going into liquidation and both Ryman's and Dillons being put up for sale.

CBI leaders maintained, however, that there was no need for an "apocalyptic" response, insisting that some high street sectors were still doing well even though others were performing poorly. The CBI warned the Government against any new rise in interest rates which might further damage consumer confidence.

Business news, page 25

Why men are not for all seasons

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

SPRING is in the air, the sap is rising, the days are getting longer and all creatures are responding to the primal urges of the new season. All that is except men.

A study in America has discovered what women have long suspected and men have always denied: that the female biological clock is in tune with nature and responds to the changing seasons, whereas the male of the species has become biologically "deaf" to such primordial rhythms.

A preliminary survey at the National Institutes of Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland, has found that an increase in the number of daylight hours causes women, during nocturnal sleep, to secrete lesser amounts of

melatonin, the hormone that controls such seasonal urges as migration and breeding in other species. As winter comes and days grow shorter, women's nocturnal secretion of melatonin again increases.

Most men, however, appear to have lost the ability to react to changing daylight hours and produce the same amount of melatonin regardless of the season. "Men seem to be more sensitive to artificial light than women are," Dr Thomas Wehr, a psychologist, told *The New York Times*. "When it comes to seasonal change, men just don't get it."

The research scientists found that, although men retain the biological machinery to respond to changing

day-length, they tend not to use it.

Some scientists think that the difference may be linked to a vestigial urge towards seasonal breeding among females that harks back to a time when humans also tended to breed at times of peak fertility, in the spring and autumn. The findings may also help to explain why women suffer more from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), the winter depression.

A separate study by Mark George, a neurologist at the institutes, has found that women use far more of their brains during bouts of sadness than men, which may help to explain why women are more likely to suffer from depression.



OLD NAVITIMER

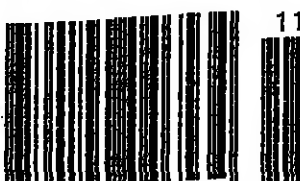
NAVITIMER: ON COURSE AND ON TIME. With time a crucial aspect of air travel, pilots and navigators have long viewed their watch as their basic personal instrument. Even with today's sophisticated navigation satellites and radio beacons, "flight computers" like the NAVITIMER are still used for routine calculations. A slide rule of this kind is built into NAVITIMER mechanical chronographs. The pilot's sole personal instrument, today's NAVITIMERS are based on a design voted official watch of the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association in 1952. Relentlessly improved since then, NAVITIMERS are totally efficient and fascinating to operate while their good looks remain as unmistakable as ever.

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Prescott's new clothes escape dressing down from Blair charm school

RIP John Prescott. The Hull bruiser is no more. In his place yesterday was a scrubbed, shiny-faced, hair-combed, shoe-shined, silk-tied, charcoal-suited New Labour clone. The Islington Reich had tamed Mr Prescott and sent him along to deputise for Tony Blair at Prime Minister's Questions. John Major being away in the desert avoiding Mr Clinton.

Labour's deputy leader arrived clutching his question, typed in such big, block script that I could read the first

sentence from my perch 20ft above him. I knew before Tony Newton (leader of the House, standing in for the PM) what question he was about to be asked.

Up got Mr Prescott with the dutiful eagerness of a boy Reading Aloud in Class. He delivered his script word for word, not a syllable, hair or cuff out of place. It was about the Greenbury committee on executives' pay.

Mr Newton replied that the PM would be studying the committee's conclusions with Clare. There were wrinkled

brows. With Clare? With Norma, surely? "Er, with care" Mr Newton stammered.

Prescott's next question commenced with the phrase, also written, "Whatever the Right Honourable gentleman may say..." This was

probably meant as an instruction from Blair's office to Prescott, to use the second question regardless of Newton's first reply — but he read it out, anyway. There being no instructions for a third question, and having survived his script without a bluff, Prescott sat down. Phew! No rapped

knuckles in the leader's office, then.

Any resemblance between this Mr John L. Prescott and the John L. Prescott who once delighted us with his mangled syntax but plain meaning is purely coincidental. The New Prescott's syntax was plain. It was the meaning that had got mangled.

The taming of the Old

MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

Prescott was as significant in its way as the birth of a new Clause Four. It was — in the Hamlet cigar ad-speak beloved of Labour's new leader — a "defining moment".

A different sort of defining moment came two hours later, as our last Prime Minister but one answered questions from the Commons Procedure Committee about the

reform of Prime Minister's Questions.

Lord Callaghan will be 83 this month. It doesn't show. The old fox is wily as ever, but the Tories forget. He was introduced by the spectacularly oleaginous Sir Peter Emery (C. Honiton) rather as one might the special guest at a Conservative bring and buy spring fayre, and thanked in the same way: Sir Peter spoke of Lord Callaghan's "great charm"; he had "the respect — and indeed I think I say on all sides — the affection" of the committee.

Callaghan was questioned with about as much bite as you would experience in an ambush by a posse of unarmed seal pups. Only Labour's Tony Banks (Newham NW) dared ask what was wrong, at Prime Minister's Questions, "with giving the head of the country a bit of a bashing around?"

Unsurprisingly, Lord Jim thought we should all be more polite and warn the PM in advance what we were going to ask... but he did not, he demurred, "wish to trespass on the committee's time".

"We've never had a more charming trespasser," Sir Peter gushed.

We rushed from the stale air of the committee room, fighting for oxygen. Thank heavens for the impetuous PMQs! Thank heavens for the vulgarity of the Commons chamber! Thank heavens for Baroness Thatcher's letter on the committee's desk, politely telling them a Prime Minister is perfectly capable of standing up to the onslaught, and advising them to let well enough alone.

Mark my words, they will.

Lords inflict defeat on ministers over ex-wives' pensions

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government was defeated in the Lords last night over arrangements for giving divorcees a share of their former partners' pensions.

Payments to ex-wives are likely to be deducted at source from pension funds, rather than left to divorced pensioners to hand over, after a Labour amendment was carried by 178 votes to 173. The Government later suffered a further defeat when peers voted by 191 to 145 to restore war widows' pensions to those widowed or divorced for a second time.

Ministers have had to climb down over ex-partners being eligible to part of a pension after pressure from the Lords. After a Government Lords amendment yesterday, they will ask courts to take pensions into account when dividing assets, which could affect up to 200,000 couples a year.

Baroness Hollis of Heigham, a Labour Social Security spokeswoman, said in the report stage of the Pensions Bill that it would be irresponsible not to go one step further. She said that to require pensioners to make the payment to ex-partners would create the sort of problems that had beset the Child Support Agency.

A department spokesman said afterwards that ministers would "seriously consider the implications" of the vote, which will have to be overturned by the Commons if it is not to become law.

Lady Hollis told the Lords: "The pension scheme, and not the husband, should provide the deferred maintenance. Our amendment would ensure that that portion would flow securely to the wife without asking an elderly lady of 75 to pursue her husband as a litigant through the courts, clogging up the system, and causing immense and unnecessary distress to all parties. This

amendment would significantly improve the financial position of some women facing divorce.

"In future, a woman will have the right to share in the pension to which she contributed during her marriage and not have to chase her former husband through the courts if he fails to pay. Many divorced wives faced an old age of loneliness, poverty and increasing desperation.

"Which do you think is more likely to ensure the court's decision of a flow of income support on retirement to the spouse? The first husband or the pension fund? Trust your experience," Lord Mackay of

life. "The Bill, which equalises the state retirement age at 65 and puts in place safeguards against a repeat of the Maxwell pensions disaster, has caused problems throughout its passage in the Lords. Last month peers forced the Government, in another Labour amendment, to increase the Serps element of state pensions.

On war widows, Lord Freyberg, 25, the crossbencher who moved the amendment and who has been championing their cause since he arrived in the Lords two years ago, said: "These women have no pension at all, they are in severe financial difficulties."

"Across the rest of Europe all war widows get a better deal. In Britain they are expected to choose between the possibility of a new marriage and happiness and the benefit of a continuous pension. This is a cruel choice."

He said there were only 48,000 war widows left from 12,000 20 years ago. Eighty per cent were over 70 years old and so were a decreasing burden on the State.

The Government only narrowly defeated a Labour amendment calling for shared pensions for partners of Alzheimer's disease sufferers after Lord Mackay promised that Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, would take a "serious" look at their situation.

The whole of the sick person's occupational pension can be taken by local authorities to pay for care, leaving the spouse living on state benefits. Baroness Hollis said: "These are some of the most distressing circumstances that I have come across. These women would be better off if their husbands were dead. While he lingers on she suffers in deep financial distress."

Treatment hope, page 7



Lady Hollis: "many face desperation"

Ardbrecknish, the Social Security Minister, said the Opposition amendment would cause cumbersome administrative burdens to pension funds and would penalise pension fund holders. "Pension schemes would be faced with the additional cost of processing two lots of pension payments instead of one."

Baroness Sear, spokeswoman for the Liberal Democrats, who supported the amendment, said: "It is common justice that a woman should receive an appropriate share of a pension when she has contributed to her husband's career during married



The actress Felicity Kendal, took her son Jacob Rudman, 7, to Buckingham Palace yesterday when she received the insignia of the CBE for services to drama

Troop reduction indicates confidence in peace move

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE announcement yesterday that 400 soldiers are to be withdrawn from Northern Ireland represents the first significant cut in troop levels in the province since the IRA and loyalist ceasefires were declared six months ago.

The decision indicates a growing confidence in both the Army and the Royal Ulster Constabulary that security improvements in the Province can be matched by a smaller military force. Although the withdrawal, reducing the military presence to about 18,000, is largely a political move, there seems little doubt that the role of the Army in Northern Ireland will diminish if the ceasefire is maintained and peace negotiations make some headway.

In recent years, resources have been stretched to maintain the military presence at a high level while Britain has taken on peacekeeping com-

mitments in Bosnia and elsewhere. As a result, Army units trained for armoured or artillery duties have had to be sent to the Province in an infantry role.

The primary role of the unit being withdrawn from Ulster, 5 Regiment Royal Artillery, is to operate the multiple launch rocket system, which proved successful in the Gulf War. Being committed to Northern Ireland for a six-month tour meant in effect that the regiment was removed from its primary function in the Army for about a year, because of the need to retrain for Ulster.

Another Army unit was training to replace 5 Regiment Royal Artillery but will be put on short notice standby to be sent in the event of a breakdown in security.

The reduction in troops was recommended by Sir Hugh Annesley, RUC Chief

Constable, and Lieutenant General Sir Roger Wheeler, General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland.

The withdrawal of the first major unit comes at a time when the role of the Army in Northern Ireland has been transformed. In many areas, troops are rarely seen after the Army and RUC introduced a series of "de-escalatory measures" in response to the ceasefires.

The dramatic reduction in security patrols has confined thousands of troops to barracks. With not a shot fired at a soldier since the ceasefire, the troops have been engaged in "peacetime" training at the two ranges in Ulster — at Magilligan in Co Londonderry and at Ballykinkler in Co Down. They have also had more time for sport and leisure.

Troop withdrawal, page 1

Whitehall fears loss of goodwill

Continued from page 1

the largest European investor in the United States, and America holds that same position in Britain. Whitehall has identified factors suggesting that the present rift may herald a long-term divergence. They include the growth in neo-isolationism in the United States, the changing demographic balance with the rise of Asian and Hispanic groups and the relative decline of those from Anglo-Saxon stock, the movement of the population south and west and the greater focus on the Pacific.

Moreover, with the passing of the wartime generation and the end of the Cold War, the political and emotional bonds are also weakening. The foundations of the special relationship — a common heritage of culture, language and values — can no longer be taken for granted.

There are worries also that Britain is increasingly seen in America only of value as a member of the European Union. America has come to accept that the EU will speak with one voice on trade negotiations or foreign policy, and pays less attention to British views in isolation. Both Mr Clinton and former President Bush have paid as much or more attention to France and Germany than to Britain, officials here believe.

But in two areas co-operation is still unparalleled: defence and intelligence. But these are

less vital after the collapse of Communism in Europe, and are overshadowed increasingly by divergent world views. Continuing disagreement, especially with Congress, over Bosnia-Herzegovina has been largely to blame.

The row over Mr Adams's visit is not unprecedented. Even in the Reagan-Thatcher heyday, there were sharp disagreements over the Soviet gas pipeline to Europe, the American invasion of Grenada, President Reagan's readiness at Reykjavik to scrap nuclear weapons, and the long-standing row over American extra-territorial legislation affecting American-owned companies in Britain.

There were, and still are, secondary quarrels about British relations with Cuba, air transport services, American attitudes to Argentina and unitary taxation. What has changed now is that the British Government is now more ready to speak out. Previous quarrels were always played down for fear of antagonising Washington or losing the unique access to American decision-making at an early stage. The Government values this early input, but now believes, at least with the Clinton White House, that the present Administration neither cares what others think nor listens to hushed diplomacy. Playing hardball is an American political metaphor; it is a game John Major is learning fast.

Troops out

Continued from page 1

RUC without direct Army support. These steps have been accompanied by a number of other measures which have combined to reduce significantly the impact of the security situation on the people of Northern Ireland.

Despite his comments that his decision was an operational one, the withdrawal will be seen as an important signal to Sinn Féin as the party prepares for the next round of exploratory talks with Government officials in Belfast this week. Sinn Féin, which has toughened its stance on the decommissioning of IRA weapons in recent days, welcomed the announcement.

Gerry Adams, the party's president, said in Washington: "Any move to demilitarise and decommission the British presence is important. It is a bit belated. I would like to see all the troops permanently removed."

The decision was given a guarded welcome by the Ulster Unionist Party. Ken Maginnis, the MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone who is the party's security spokesman, said he was content that up to two battalions could be withdrawn to mainland Britain. Seamus Mallon, the deputy leader of the SDLP, said the withdrawal of the troops showed the Government believed that the peace was intended to be permanent.

Last night after the prison riot, one officer was in a serious condition and 50 others had to be taken off duty suffering from injuries, smoke inhalation and stress.

Churchmen condemn move to 'out' Hope

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE 36 archbishops and bishops who head the Anglican Communion worldwide yesterday condemned the "repulsive intrusion" into the private life of the Bishop of London, Dr David Hope.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, led the support for Dr Hope, who said that his sexuality was a "grey area" after he was pressed by gay activists to "out" himself.

In a letter signed by the leaders of the Anglican Communion, who represent 70 million Anglicans in 160 countries, Dr Carey praised the work carried out by Dr Hope in his diocese. He added: "In the light of news reports that have reached us, we express to you our solidarity in deploring this reprehensible intrusion into your private life."

The church leaders are meeting at Windsor for retreat, Bible study and to discuss issues facing the Anglican Church worldwide. Their letter to Dr Hope concluded: "We assure you as a body that we stand against this kind of provocation."

"Your ministry in the demanding post... is appreciated by the whole Church."

In a separate move, the Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev Robert Williamson, said he would be happy to ordain a priest who was openly homosexual "as long as that relationship was stable".

Yesterday's letter, drawn up during the week-long meeting of the primates, is likely to strengthen the growing opposition to the tactics employed by Peter Tatchell, who heads OutRage and who "outed" ten bishops at the General Synod last November.

Dr Hope, who is celibate, received a letter from Mr Tatchell urging him to admit publicly he was homosexual. Dr Hope, 54, condemned the OutRage campaign this week as "profoundly disturbing" and "based almost totally on rumour, unattributable sources and of an intimidatory nature".

Last night, Mr Tatchell accused the bishop of misrepresenting his letter.

Dr John Habgood, page 16
Letters, page 17

Stars held

Continued from page 1

himself as a student. Mr Grobbelaar's links to allegations of match fixing were first made public last November by Chris Vincent, a business associate and friend. He claimed that the Far East betting syndicate made £3 million out of the match between Liverpool and Newcastle in 1993 in which Mr Grobbelaar's Merseyside team lost 3-0.

The goalkeeper strenuously denied the allegations but the FA charged him with bringing the game into disrepute and accepting pecuniary advantage to guarantee match results. However, they did not suspend him. His lawyers lodged his defence in December.

Yesterday morning at 6.55am, four detectives arrived at his rented £90,000 semi-detached cottage at Lymington on the edge of the New Forest. At the same time other officers arrested Mr Segars at his home in Fleet, 55 miles away. Other Hampshire police travelled overnight to London for the arrests of Miss Kassa-Mapsi, 29, at her home near Lord's cricket ground, and the Malaysian businessman.

Mr Grobbelaar, 37, looked shocked and disorientated as he was led from his home by two male and two female detectives who had spent an hour interviewing him in his cottage and searching through his private papers.

Mr Grobbelaar, dressed in green jacket and casual trousers, was driven away in the back of an unmarked police car and taken to Southampton Central police station for questioning. Later, David Rawlinson, of Mr Grobbelaar's Liverpool based solicitors, said: "Bruce has co-operated fully with Hampshire police throughout the inquiry into allegations which he has consistently and strenuously denied."

Mr Segars was questioned for three hours at his home before being driven 35 miles to Eastleigh police station. Detectives took away boxes of documents and papers and Mr Segars looked relaxed as he left.

At Wimbledon FC Joe Kinnear, manager, said that the news of Segars's arrest came "out of the blue" in a 9 o'clock telephone call. "I have not been able to contact Hans," he told reporters at the ground. "As you can see he is not here at training."

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It was an execution and you were proud of it, judge tells killer

Widow cleared of husband's murder as man is jailed

THE widow of a Sicilian drugs dealer broke down in tears before an Old Bailey jury yesterday as she was cleared of his murder. Her brother was convicted of the Mafia-style execution and jailed for life.

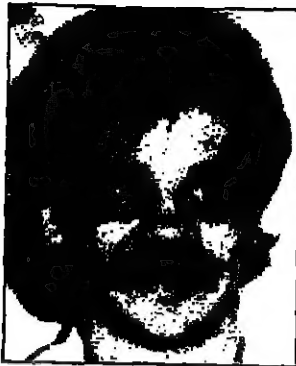
Sebastiana Ranno, 33, was acquitted of involvement in the killing of her wealthy husband at their home in south London. Domenico Ranno, who ran two London restaurants, was shot dead with his own pistol by Domenico Finocchio, who grinned at the jury as he was led to the cells last night.

The jury agreed that Mrs Ranno knew her husband was to be shot and that she had tried to cover up afterwards. But the judge directed them that Mrs Ranno's "silent, tacit acquiescence" in the plans by her brother to murder her unfaithful husband did not make her guilty of murder.

To convict, he told them, they had to be sure she had instigated, encouraged and persuaded him.

At the murder scene, police found a brightly coloured love bird with a broken neck. The jury rejected the prosecution claim that Mrs Ranno had solicited her brother to carry out the killing because he had been unfaithful.

However, she was still sentenced to two years' imprisonment after admitting conspiring to pervert the course of justice. The charge concerned an attempt to interfere with a witness in a robbery case against her brother. She was cleared of soliciting the murder of the witness. Judge Brian Capstick told Finocchio: "You



Domenico Ranno: sold kilos of cocaine



Finocchio: used victim's own gun

have been found guilty on overwhelming evidence of the cold-blooded murder of your brother-in-law. It was an execution and you were proud of it."

Finocchio, 46, has already served 19 years in jail for offences in Italy and the jury accepted he had killed his brother-in-law because he did not like the man and knew he had large amounts of cash and jewellery at his home in

Kennington. Mrs Ranno is expected to be released shortly as she has already served most of her sentence while awaiting trial in custody after her husband's death in November 1993.

Mrs Ranno had been married to her husband since she was 16. They eloped because their families did not approve and came to live in England 12 years ago, said Julian Bevan, QC, for the prosecution.

The jury were played secret tapes made by a family friend who went to the police after Ranno's death. The witness, who has been given a new identity and was known to the court as John Cornwall, captured Finocchio boasting about the killing.

On one tape Finocchio said: "With the first blow I got him, bang. He fell to the ground. With the second I ran out. I told him farewell and I will see you in the next life to come. He got what he deserved."

He continued: "Ranno was speaking on the phone when it happened. He did not realise anything when his handgun disappeared. He could not imagine I would do such a thing."

"I entered the house quietly, he was in the kitchen and 'boom boom' with a smile on my face. I bumped him off. I shot him without the silencer."

Mr Bevan said the taped conversations showed "Dominic was a very boastful individual who bragged about the way he eliminated his brother-in-law."

The court heard that the murder victim was heavily embroiled in the London underworld. Ranno used his two



Sebastiana Ranno tried to cover up after her brother murdered her husband

restaurants, Donna Ina One and Donna Ina Two, as fronts for drug dealing.

The man known as John Cornwall said: "He sold one kilo of cocaine every one or two weeks, with a single deal sometimes totalling £60,000."

The court was told that Finocchio hated the way his

brother-in-law treated his sister and disliked Ranno. Ranno had treated him "like a shop boy" and expected him to sleep above a restaurant with waiters.

Finocchio was convicted of Ranno's murder as well as the robbery of Alberto Patterson and conspiring to pervert the

course of justice. Finocchio's younger brother Sebastiano was convicted of attempting to interfere with witnesses in the Patterson case, the conspiracy offence admitted by Mrs Ranno. He was jailed for 21 months. All three were cleared of conspiring to murder Mr Patterson.

Curtain comes down on play Fry abandoned

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE producer of the West End play *Cell Mates* yesterday blamed Stephen Fry's dramatic exit from the production for its early closure. The curtain at the Albany Theatre will come down for the final time on March 25, a month after the actor walked out reportedly because of wounding reviews.

Duncan Weldon, director of Triumph Productions, said Fry "has a lot to answer for". Losses will total about £300,000, which will be covered by insurance if the actor proves to have been ill. He added that the play's backers were "reserving judgment on suing".

Mr Weldon said: "Cell Mates was scheduled to run for 13 weeks in London and no doubt it would have done so successfully had we not had this problem, because the takings on the road at Richmond and Guildford were phenomenally good and the first week in London, in which Stephen Fry appeared, was capacity and we were holding an extremely heavy advance."

There is no reason to suspect that we would not have played to virtual capacity for the total run, particularly in view of the fact that it was a limited season of 13 weeks," Mr Weldon added.

In the past two weeks *Cell Mates* has played to houses of less than 20 per cent capacity, rising to 50 per cent on Saturdays. Simon Ward took over Fry's role as the spy George Blake. Rik Mayall co-stars as the man who helped Blake to escape from prison.

When Fry first disappeared there was concern that he had suffered a nervous breakdown. Later, from his retreat on the Continent, he faxed a letter denying that he had "done a Lord Lucan" and said he feared the critics had been right to question his acting ability.

One source observed that, after initial sympathy, many were saying that Fry should have behaved in a more professional manner. The play's author and director, Simon Gray, has accused Fry of behaving "in the most cowardly fashion" and said

people should not waste their sympathy on his "squalid little story".

Philip Hedley, artistic director of the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, said: "This is one of the few occasions where you cannot say there is no such thing as bad publicity."

He said that the theatrical world was divided between those who were sympathetic to Fry, particularly because he found it difficult to turn down requests for help from any good cause, and those who talked about a lack of "professionalism".

Mr Hedley questioned the merits of comedians becoming actors without formal training. "Are some of them



Fry: disappeared after poor reviews

actors or just playing themselves? Does it mislead the public in that they expect the actor to be doing the usual stand-up act only to discover they are in a play?"

Benedict Nightingale, the *Times* theatre critic, said that *Cell Mates* would almost certainly have completed its run successfully because of the attraction of Fry and Mayall, regardless of the play's merits.

Michael Frayn, in whose play *Look, Look Fry* appeared in 1990, said: "I can only assume he was under the stress of extreme anguish. People do behave in uncharacteristic ways when they are pressured."

Doctor's view, page 13

Student dies trying to revise all night

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A STUDENT died when an experiment to control his sleep patterns so that he could study longer went wrong. Iain Fraser, 20, used chloroform to knock himself out after afternoon lectures at Edinburgh University so that he could wake up later and study through the night.

The third-year science and engineering student was believed to be under pressure with the finals examinations for his BSc. Friends said Mr Fraser, from Inverness, had talked about staying up all night to study. He hatched his elaborate plan to take the anaesthetic drug to try to restrict his sleep.

Mr Fraser, a former pupil of Charleston Academy, is thought to have obtained the

substance from the university laboratories. His body was found on his bed by his flatmate, Colin McCloy. Paramedics tried to revive him but he was confirmed dead at the scene.

A spokesman for Lothian and Borders police said: "It appears to have been a tragic accident. There are no suspicious circumstances." Police ruled out suicide after learning of Mr Fraser's plans to stay awake to study.

One fellow student said: "Being in his line of study he must have known about the drug and presumably he must have thought he knew what he was doing. Using chloroform to try to control sleeping patterns is not done on the spur of the moment."

Britain's oldest person spurns champagne

THE oldest person in Britain celebrates her 112th birthday today. But Annie Scott will not be toasting the occasion with champagne. According to her son Tom, she has never let a drop of alcohol pass her lips (Gillian Bowditch writes).

Mrs Scott, who lives in a home in the remote village of Reay in Caithness, puts her longevity down to healthy living. "Live well, help others and have plenty of friends," she says.

Mrs Scott has never smoked and her favourite food is salad. But she does have her vices. "She loves butter, and

salt on everything," says Mr Scott. "The doctors cannot be right all the time."

Mrs Scott, who worked as a teacher, was brought up in Dungannon, Co Tyrone. Born in 1883, two days after Marx was buried, she can remember the Easter Uprising in 1916. Her wish is to live to see peace in Ireland.

Tom Scott says: "We used to live right on the border, between northern and southern Ireland in what has effectively become bandit country. I've told her about the ceasefire. I'm not sure how much of it she understands."



Jeeves: angered by game of football

Neighbour who shot boy jailed

BY RICHARD DUCE

A WORD of remorse could have saved a neighbour from jail after he used an airgun to shoot an eight-year-old boy trying to retrieve his football. Judge Lowry said that Gordon Jeeves's refusal to apologise for the shooting, which left the child bleeding from an ear, gave her no alternative but to jail him for 12 months.

Jeeves, 34, was convicted by an Old Bailey jury of wounding the boy outside his home on a council estate in World's End, Chelsea, southwest London. "There has been no sign of regret or remorse from him at all," Judge Lowry said.

The court was told that Jeeves's elderly mother, who had often been upset by children on the estate, objected to their playing football beneath her flat. When a ball lodged in scaffolding against the wall, Jeeves fired twice as the boy tried to retrieve it. Sappho Diaz, for the defence, said Jeeves planned to appeal against his conviction.

Misdiagnosis 'led to GP's stabbing'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN stabbed a doctor to death in revenge for failing to diagnose his sister's cancer, a court was told yesterday.

As Andrew Wylie plunged the knife into Dr Donald Mackay, the doctor's daughter Laura, 25, a receptionist in the practice at Airdrie, Strathclyde, hauled him off by the hair and grappled with him before he escaped. The High Court in Glasgow was told.

Mr Wylie, 33, who has been committed to the State Hospital at Carstairs, denies murdering Dr Mackay in his surgery at Bank House Medical Centre, Airdrie, on October 19 last year. It is alleged that he repeatedly stabbed him on the head and body.

Miss Mackay, 25, said she twice heard her father shout, "Help me," and dashed into his office. There she found him lying on the floor shielding his face as he was being stabbed by a stranger.

Miss Mackay told Iain Bonomy, QC, for the prosecution, that she grabbed her father's attacker by the hair and pulled him off, saving her father from further knife blows. As they were struggling one of the patients came to the door and the man escaped.

Pauline Amos, 31, of Airdrie, said that she also witnessed the stabbing. Describing the attacker, she said: "He never said anything. He just looked at me straight in the face and carried on."

Another patient, James Campbell, 52, of Clarkston, Airdrie, told how he was sitting with the doctor when Mr Wylie walked into the

room, asked if he was Dr Mackay, and said: "Did you know Mary?"

Mr Campbell said Mr Wylie then walked towards the doctor and pulled out a knife. He dashed out of the room to get assistance and thought of getting a broom to defend the doctor. But when he got back Mr Wylie was escaping. He insisted Mr Wylie had asked about Mary and not Ann.

Steven Queen, 14, told the court of Mr Wylie's alleged confession to killing the doctor. "He was laughing at first and I didn't think he was telling the truth. But once we started talking I believed him. He said that his sister had cancer and she was in stage one. She went to Dr Mackay and he said it was only woman's nerves. She changed her doctor, who said it was at stage three and if Dr Mackay had checked out she would be here today."

Steven said Mr Wylie told him his sister was too young to die and described how he got his practice address from the phone book and went to the surgery with a knife. Steven added that when they parted Mr Wylie told him: "I am not going to harm anyone who doesn't do any harm to my family. Anyone who does harm to my family will get the same as Dr Mackay got."

Earlier Mr Wylie's nephew, Kevin Rooney, 15, said Mr Wylie had told him about the death from cancer of his Auntie Ann eight years ago and that Mr Wylie claimed Dr Mackay had done nothing. The trial continues.

Killer may have used silencer

BY KATE ALDERSON

THE killer of a businesswoman shot twice through the head may have used a silencer in what police have called an execution-style shooting.

Patricia Hayes, 45, was shot as she lay in bed at home on Sunday. Detectives have been unable to find any signs of forced entry or robbery at the bungalow in Denton, Manchester, and said that their inquiries focused on her business interests, associates and friends.

Scientific evidence showed that a 9mm semi-automatic pistol was used, which firearms experts said was an unusual weapon. Detective Superintendent Ron Gaffey, of Greater Manchester Police, said that no one seemed to have heard the shots in the quiet neighbourhood on Sunday morning and it was possible that the killer used a silencer. Mr Gaffey said that Miss Hayes, who was single and had no children, was a quiet person whose social life centred on going to the pub after work.

Miss Hayes was the director of her own company, Unique Marble and Fireplace Centres, at Ashton-under-Lyne. She set up the business eight years ago and one of her outlets, a shop selling fireplaces, had had financial problems in recent months.

Her lodger, a 29-year-old female, was questioned in connection with the killing and has been released. She alerted neighbours to Miss Hayes's death on Sunday morning after running into the street shouting for help.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



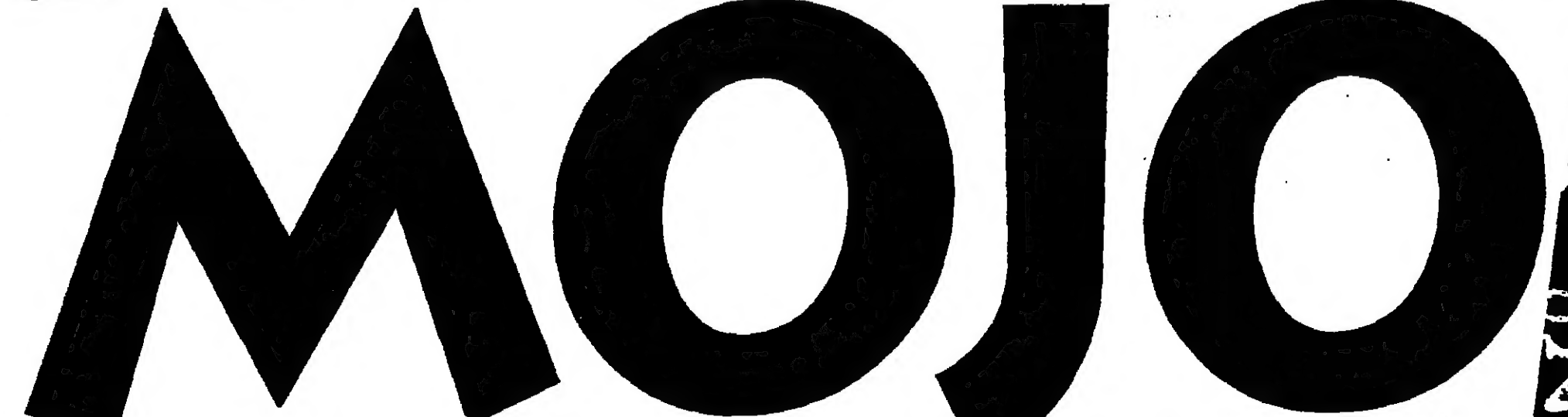
Celebrity and art

RICHARD AVEDON, AMERICA'S MASTER PHOTOGRAPHER IN THE MAGAZINE

THE SUPERMODELS: CARS AS FASHION ACCESSORY

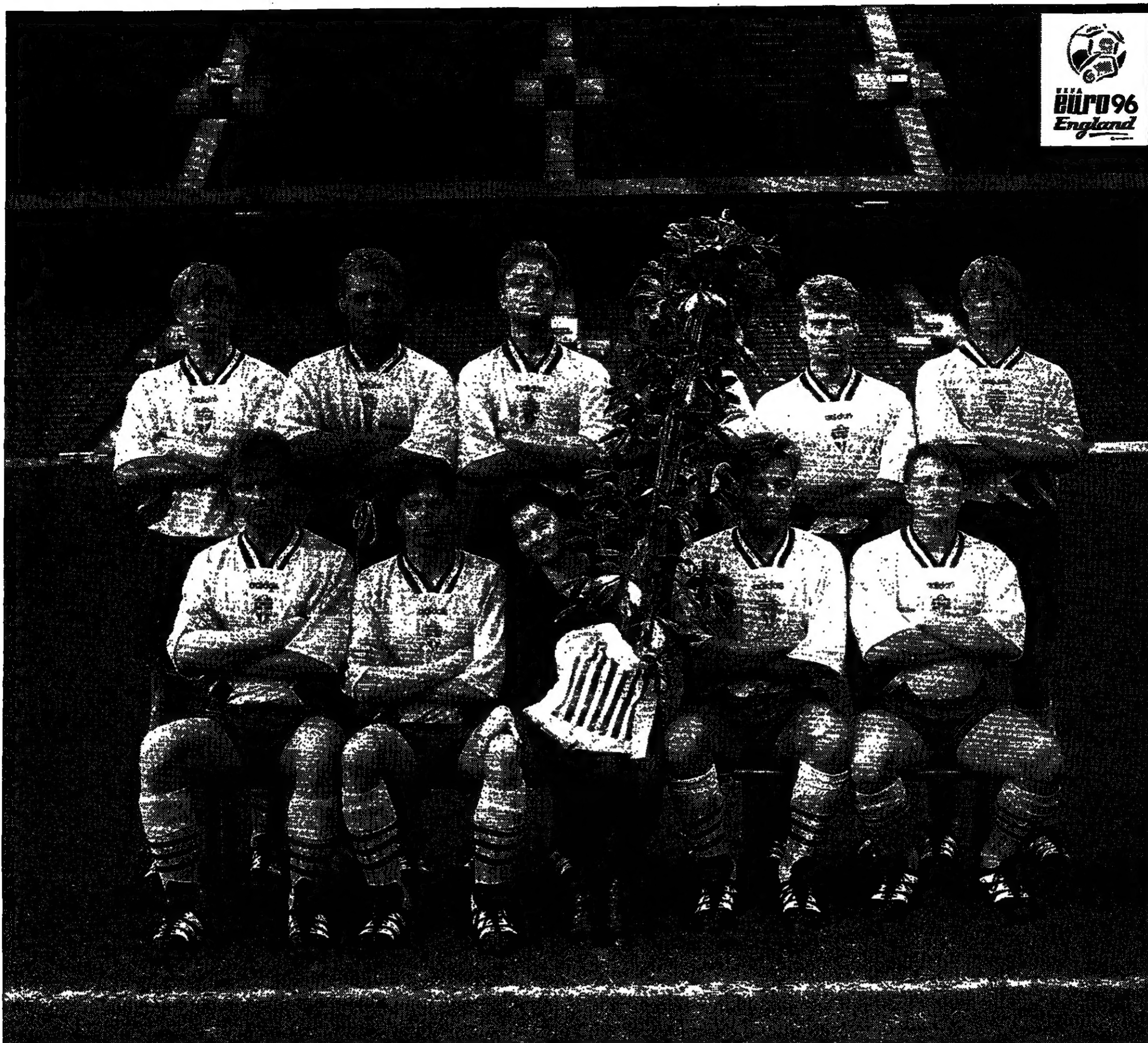


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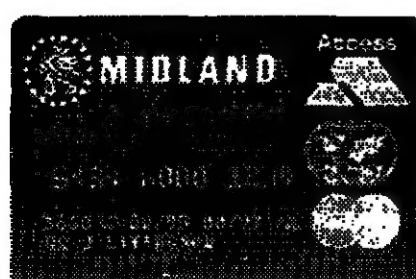


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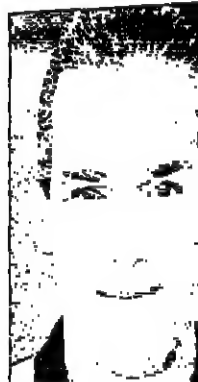
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Segers missed four games for

Dutchman noted for reliability

HANS SEGERS is a reliable defender to the brilliant but erratic Bruce Grobbelaar. He has been an unspectacular but consistent presence during his British football career.

Since joining Manchester United, Segers has been a steady defender in a team known as the "Crazy Gang". He has been an unspectacular but consistent presence during his British football career.

One lapse in his reliability was last week, when Segers was unable to score the goal for Manchester United in a Premiership game against Arsenal. He has since recovered and is back in his usual form.

Segers, 34, from Eindhoven, has made a total of 100 appearances in British football since he joined Manchester United in 1994. He has been a reliable defender in a team known as the "Crazy Gang".

Segers joined Manchester United in 1994 for £125,000. He has since won their only FA Cup and replaced Dave Beasant as the first-choice goalkeeper. He has proved a worthy successor to his 310 games for the club.

THIS football season, Segers is remembered not for his reliability on the pitch, but for his role in the club's success.

November 9: Alleged match-fixing involving Grobbelaar surfaced.

December 1: Paul Merson, Arsenal midfielder, was suspended by the Football Association after revealing he had drunk and drugged.

January 26: Eric Cantona, Manchester United player, was involved in a fight with a fan at Selhurst.

February 6: Rivaldo, Chelsea player, was involved in a fight with a fan at Millwall.

March 15: The Football League announced that it had received a bid from a consortium to buy the league.

Match-fixing inquiry looks for links with Far East syndicates

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE British police investigation into the allegations of bribery and match-fixing is thought to centre on supposed links with shadowy Far Eastern betting syndicates. There has been a crackdown on corruption in football in the Far East and the syndicates have had to look elsewhere for money-making ventures.

Millions of pounds are bet each week in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore and English football is attractive to punters because it is widely shown on television, the players are well known and the local football leagues are often corrupt.

More than 120 players in Malaysia have been arrested and most banished to internal exile. Michael Varna, a leading Czech player, has fled Singapore where he faces charges over match-fixing and a referee, registered with Fifa, has also been tried there.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has known about the problems for years but has been powerless to do much. Peter Velappan, the AFC general secretary, said four months ago that the allegations about betting links with Britain were "only the tip of the iceberg".

Ken Aston, one of England's most respected former referees, has been the latest target for the syndicates. Police are investigating how he was promised £25,000 to pass on

addresses and telephone numbers of top players and referees.

Mr Aston was approached in a Singapore restaurant while on holiday but immediately reported the incident to the Football Association in England. Mr Aston said: "These people want a correct score and to do that they have got to bribe players and the referee."

Johnson Fernandez, a sports journalist of the *Malay Mail*, says he has seen a "secret list" of six British players who have taken bribes.

The betting is sophisticated and wide-ranging. Bets are made not just on the match result. Money is placed on when the first goal is scored, the first yellow card shown and the half-time score. There are even multipliers linking such details.

One Malaysian source said: "There are plenty of matches where you know one side is stronger than the other and is bound to win. But it is what happens in the game that matters. So one player can be paid to miss the penalty."

William Hill has always maintained that any corrupt bets must have been placed abroad because it would have been impossible to have won large sums in England without arousing bookmakers' suspicions here.

Although Graham Sharpe, of William Hill, has said he is

"not underestimating the potential impact of the allegations", British bookmakers have had confidence in the honesty of the English game.

They last lost it in 1965, when ten players were jailed for trying to fix matches on which they had bet. England internationals Peter Swan and Tony Kay and their Sheffield Wednesday colleague David "Bronco" Layne were jailed for four months for conspiracy to defraud and were banned from playing for life.

As a result of the scandal, bookmakers stopped taking bets on individual matches. With the game's slow return to respectability, the bookmakers started accepting bets on a minimum of five matches. This season betting has been allowed on scores of individual non-televised games.

Players arrested, page 1
Leading article, page 17
Rob Hughes, page 42
Football's reaction, page 48



John Fashanu and his girlfriend Melissa Kassamapsi, both arrested yesterday

Soccer star keen to strike a deal

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

JOHN FASHANU leads a hectic life combining playing as a forward for Aston Villa in the FA Carling Premiership with extensive travel as an international trade broker and as a presenter of *Gladiators* on ITV. It has proved a successful mix.

On the football pitch, controversy has punctuated his career, from his early days with Norwich City, Lincoln City and Millwall through to a higher profile existence with Wimbledon and Villa. In October last year, John O'Neill, the former Norwich City defender, took Fashanu to court over the tackle that allegedly ended his career in 1987. The matter was settled out of court.

Last season Fashanu was involved in an aerial challenge with Gary Mabbutt, the Tottenham Hotspur captain, that left the defender with a fractured cheekbone and damaged eye socket. An inquiry by the Football Association cleared Fashanu of blame.

Away from football, Fashanu, 32, has built construction, property and television promotional companies reputed to be worth £5

million. It is a far cry from his roots in Kensington, London, where he and his older brother Justin were born. They were brought up in Barnardo's homes in the South of England. Early on, Fashanu Minor was thinking of a future in finance. "When I was a kid, someone asked me which footballer I preferred, George Best or Bobby Charlton," Fashanu recalled last year. "I said Tiny Rowland."

He also works for the United Nations, through Unicef.

In November, when Fashanu was first linked with match-fixing allegations, he disclosed how he had discovered he was being "stitched up" by certain unidentified members of the football community. He claimed his home in Malda Vale, west London, had been bugged and that he had been implicated in an illegal operation selling fake British passports.

He strenuously denied involvement in the Grobbelaar case. "I had a little bit of success as a high-profile black man and I'm certain these people want to bring me down," he said.



Segers: missed only four games for Dons

Dutchman noted for reliability

HANS SEGERS, in contrast to the brilliant but sometimes erratic Bruce Grobbelaar, has been unspectacular but consistent during his 11 years in British football.

Since joining Wimbledon nearly seven years ago, the Dutchman has been a solid defender in a team known as the "Crazy Gang" because of their uninhibited commitment and physical play.

One lapse by Segers came last week, when Steve Bruce was able to score the decisive goal for Manchester United in a Premiership game. Subsequently Segers was dropped last Saturday, only the fourth game he has missed for the south London club.

Terry Burton, Wimbledon's assistant manager, said yesterday: "He has been our number one for some time and has obviously played a big part in our success. I am hoping there will be more good times for him here."

Segers, 34, from Eindhoven, has made a total of 392 appearances in British football since he joined Nottingham Forest in 1984 in part-exchange for Hans van Breukelen, the Dutch international. He made only 67 appearances for Forest in four years and went on loan to Stoke City, Sheffield United and Dunfermline.

Segers joined Wimbledon for £125,000 in 1988, after the club had upset Liverpool to win their only FA Cup. He replaced Dave Beasant, one of the stars of Wimbledon's triumph at Wembley, and has proved a worthy successor in his 310 games for the club.



Grobbelaar: acrobat guarding the net

Extrovert with the will to win

ECCENTRIC and flamboyant, Bruce Grobbelaar has been one of the most celebrated goalkeepers in English football since he signed for Liverpool in 1981. He has astonished spectators with his gymnastic saves and outraged them with his impetuosity.

It is said that goalkeepers are crazy — something Grobbelaar has seemed to exemplify with his dashes out of goal, instinctive saves and the deftness with which he can catch crosses.

His showmanship has endeared him to millions. In his native Zimbabwe, for whom Grobbelaar, 37, has played, he is known as "Jungle Man" — not only for his athleticism but because he served with the Rhodesian Army in the bush in the 1970s.

He played for Crewe Alexandra in 1979 on a free transfer from the Vancouver Whitecaps, returning to Canada for a year before joining Liverpool for £250,000. He became first-choice keeper in 1981-82, when Ray Clemence left for Tottenham. It was quite a task to take over from an England player but Grobbelaar thrived. He won League championship medals in six seasons, shared in League Cup successes for three consecutive years, and helped Liverpool to win the FA Cup three times.

He was a European Cup winner in 1984, when he swayed his "spaghetti legs" to distract the opposition before making vital saves in the penalty shoot-out against Roma. After playing for Stoke City on loan in 1993, he returned to Anfield and joined Southampton on a free transfer in 1994.

SEASON OF TURMOIL

THIS football season will be remembered not for the game on the pitch, but for the scandals off it.

November 9: Allegations of match-fixing involving Bruce Grobbelaar surface.

December 1: Paul Merson, the Arsenal midfielder, is suspended by the Football Association after revelations that he has drink and drug problems.

January 26: Eric Cantona and Paul Ince of Manchester United involved in scuffles with fans at Selhurst Park. Cantona banned until the end of September. Both players face criminal charges.

February 6: Rioting erupts at a Chelsea v Millwall FA Cup match.

February 15: Hundreds of English fans disrupt the friendly with Ireland in Dublin. Match is abandoned.

February 21: George Graham, the Arsenal manager, is sacked amid allegations that he accepted "sweeteners" of £425,000 during the purchase of two foreign players. Mr Graham suggests others may have accepted transfer payments.

February 28: Hundreds of Chelsea fans arrested in Bruges to prevent "inevitable violence" at the European Cup Winners' Cup tie.

March 13: Dennis Wise of Chelsea is jailed after being sentenced to three months' jail for assaulting a taxi-driver.

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Consultants neglect NHS for lucrative private practice

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

Proposals for listing likely to start debate: Centre Point in London, Birmingham New Street signal box and New Zealand House, also in London

BY MARCUS BINNEY
ARCHITECTURE
CORRESPONDENT

A small band of post-war industrial and commercial buildings already listed. Among these are Sandersons wallpaper showrooms in London, the Willis Faber offices in Ipswich, Suffolk, and the Cummins engine factory in Darlington, Co Durham. A Heritage Department spokesman was sceptical about some of the proposals. "They're of pretty mixed merit, especially the railway buildings," he said.

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

Media, pages 34, 35

By JOHN YOUNG

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BY OUR HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

into unconsciousness and dying. The BBC says the film is not for or against euthanasia but "an unsensational and sensitive portrayal of one man's experience".



produced against one of the clotting factors, such as has probably happened in the case of Mr Gudgin. Usually it is found that factor VIII has been immobilised.

It is not always apparent why antibodies to a particular factor should suddenly be found; it is sometimes a reaction to a drug, or other

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[illegible]

Stress
to drug

AN APPEAL BY the state and the Home Department, suffering from a lack of down front support, of a 1980 Ford Bronco when the vehicle was damaged in a collision with a truck at Stoughton, Mass., last June, has been rejected by the state supreme court.

Janine Barnes, a 26-year-old organ donor, had been in the wine before the accident.

Massachusetts Attorney General, Scott Harlow, announced her suit against the community and the state for her to pay for the damage and driving license suspension. The previous hearing had found her aggravated assault on the driver with a knife and driving without a license.

Richard Barnes, 30, of New Bedford told the state supreme court the state was "not responsible for the hours of my life, my family's length, my health, my freedom without a proper hearing up in front of a jury," he released.

In a written opinion, the court in a unanimous manner said the state's minor breach was not caused by the accident.

Prison term cut in Irish sex case

BY NICHOLAS D. BELL
IRELAND'S CHIEF JUDGE

A DUBLIN woman was allowed to abort her pregnancy today, the first time in the Irish Republic, after a long and bitter argument about the constitutionality of the law.

Rebecca, 34, was in court for four years, the High Court in Dublin said, but the man, who was unnamed, had the abortion.

The woman's case was heard in force but the judge was satisfied that it was a case of unlawful abortion because the doctor had the licence since the time of 1960 and 1961.

The Irish law, the judge said, had having no effect. The decision by the Supreme Court she had made.

The Irish woman planned abortion, and it was one of the common general law permits abroad.

[illegible]

Stress 'drove aide to drunken havoc'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

AN AIDE to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, was suffering from a minor breakdown brought on by the stress of a 12-hour working day when she caused £1,600 of damage to vehicles in a car park at Scotland Yard after a lunchtime drink, a court was told yesterday.

Janine Barnes, 26, who organised Michael Howard's diary, had drunk a bottle of wine before her escape.

Magistrates at Camberwell Green, south London, sentenced her to 100 hours' community service, ordered her to pay full compensation and disqualified her from driving for 18 months. At a previous hearing she admitted aggravated vehicle taking, driving with excess alcohol and without insurance.

Richard Lewis, for the defence, told Lorraine Morgan, the stipendiary magistrate: "The hours she worked were lengthy—often 12 hours a day without a break. Stresses built up in my client which were released in a catastrophic manner. My client suffered a minor breakdown exacerbated by the alcohol."

The court had been told that

after the lunchtime drink Barnes, of Welling, southeast London, walked past a Scotland Yard security gate. She got into an unmarked Special Branch Ford Mondeo, and reversed it into a parked Vauxhall Cavalier, which collided into a second Cavalier. Barnes hit the two vehicles, which belonged to Commander David Tucker, head of the anti-terrorist branch, and Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the fraud squad, a second time before driving out at speed.

She abandoned the Ford a few miles away, then hitched a lift on a lorry to Brixton police station, where she reported the loss of her handbag. Barnes was seen shouting at a police car as it entered the station on her departure, then arrested as she tried to stop traffic.

Sentencing her, Mrs Morgan told Barnes: "I am dealing with matters involving damage to property and potential risk to members of the public. But in view of all that I've heard and read, I do not consider that you are a person who... presents a future danger to the public."



Janine Barnes arriving at court for sentence

Mother of Marchioness victim 'lost her future'

By EMMA WILKINS

A MOTHER heard for the first time yesterday how her daughter died in the Marchioness disaster on the Thames nearly six years ago.

Blanca Webster has been waiting for an inquest to hear evidence on the death of her daughter Linda, 27, since August 1989, to learn whether she died from drowning or was struck by an object in the confusion when the pleasure boat collided with the dredger *Bowbelle* near Southwark Bridge.

On the second day of the inquest into the deaths of 43 of the 51 people who died in the disaster, Mrs Webster was told that her daughter, a barrister at Lord Gifford's chambers in London, had drowned. The families of the remaining eight who died are not taking part in the inquest at Hamersmith Coroner's Court.

Mrs Webster, a former tourism manager who has not worked since her daughter's death, spoke of the trauma she has endured. "If you lose your child, you lose your future. She was a brilliant little girl. She was lovely and she loved living. All this is bringing it

back." The body had been identified by Lord Gifford because Mrs Webster was too upset to visit the mortuary.

Miss Webster had been on the *Marchioness* for a party. Her mother told the inquest she had been in Edinburgh when she heard news reports of the disaster. Mrs Webster telephoned her daughter in London, but did not worry when the answering machine came on because she was often away at weekends. On the Monday she telephoned the chambers and Lord Gifford told her they were trying to find Linda. She flew back.

Mrs Webster told the inquest: "My prime concern is whether my daughter died from drowning or from being hit by flying objects. My concern is not just for her. We have many thousands of people going on these little boats. It's important for Londoners and for the tourists to find out these facts."

Mrs Webster said she had been too ill to attend the first inquest five years ago. It was halted when the Director of Public Prosecutions stated



Linda Webster loved life, her mother said

that Douglas Henderson, master of the *Bowbelle*, would face criminal charges. Mr Henderson was later cleared of all charges after two juries failed to reach verdicts.

Mrs Webster has seen a psychiatrist to help to overcome her grief, and said she believed she was suffering post-traumatic stress disorder.

Dr Richard Shepherd, a Home Office pathologist in charge of the post-mortem examinations, told the inquest that the cause of Miss Webster's death was drowning. "The only injury on the body

was a small cut on the left shoulder blade," he said. The inquest was told that none of the bodies of 24 people found when the *Marchioness* was raised showed any sign of injury to suggest they had been scrambling to escape.

Michael Mansfield, QC, for the families, questioned Dr Shepherd about why hands had been removed from bodies for fingerprint identification. Mr Mansfield said: "The integrity of a body is tantamount to a human right. If it is to be interfered with at all, it must be done in a proper way. As far as identification is concerned, one would want to ensure that families in the future do not suffer the indignities these families have suffered."

The severing of hands did not emerge at the first inquest, but Dr Shepherd denied that it had been kept secret. It emerged yesterday that efforts had been made to take fingerprints before the decision was taken to sever the hands. Prints are difficult to obtain from decomposing bodies, Dr Shepherd told the hearing. He denied having been personally responsible for the decision to sever the hands.

Prison term cut in Irish sex case

By NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A DUBLIN businessman who was jailed for 14 years after he admitted making a schoolgirl pregnant had his sentence reduced by ten years yesterday. The case caused an outcry in the Irish Republic and the girl's attempt to have an abortion led to a referendum on the general ban on terminations.

Reducing the sentence to four years, three judges at the Court of Criminal Appeal in Dublin said that the businessman, who cannot be named, was unlikely to reoffend and had shown remorse.

They emphasised that the case was not one of rape: no force had been used. The man was sentenced on two counts of unlawful carnal knowledge because the girl was aged 14 at the time of the incidents in 1990 and 1991.

The girl was prevented by the Irish High Court from having an abortion in London. The decision was overturned by the Supreme Court, after she had had a miscarriage.

The Irish Government had planned a referendum on abortion information in 1992 and it was widened as a result of the outcry. It endorsed the general ban on abortions but permitted women to go abroad for them, and to receive advice.

Alzheimer's drug uses plant bulbs

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A CHEMICAL from daffodils and snowdrop bulbs is being tested as a treatment for Alzheimer's disease, the degenerative disorder that afflicts more than 500,000 Britons.

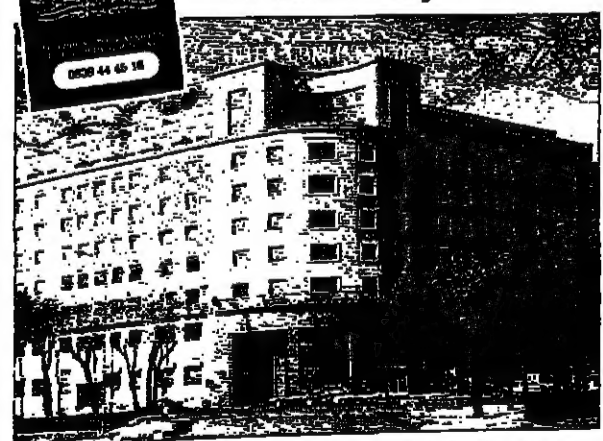
The compound, called galanthamine, has improved brain function in up to a third of sufferers in preliminary tests. Shire Pharmaceutical, the British drug company behind the research, hopes to carry out clinical trials on 600 patients at five hospitals in Europe this summer.

The research could prove a boost for bulb companies. Ten tonnes of daffodil bulbs are needed to produce one kilogram of the pure drug. Galanthamine helps to protect bulbs from being eaten in the winter by animals. It triggers severe nausea, a side-effect suffered by some Alzheimer's patients in tests. But the chemical also appears to boost levels of a nerve transmitter called acetylcholine in brain cells of Alzheimer's sufferers.

Levels of the nerve transmitter have normally dropped by a half in Alzheimer's patients by the time they are diagnosed. They fall to about a third of normal levels by the time they die.

THE TIMES Don't forget your passport

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THE WELSH ADVANTAGE.

Tories to consider schools buyout by teaching staff

By Jill Sherman and Nicholas Wood

PLANS to sell schools to their teachers and allow them to charge town halls for education services are to be put forward for inclusion in the Tory general election manifesto.

The proposal from the Social Market Foundation (SMF), a Conservative think-tank, is among the most eye-catching of the initial submissions to the policy review ordered by John Major last summer. Education vouchers, the privatisation of welfare and a reorganisation of the examinations system aimed at restoring academic rigour are also near the top of the list.

More than 400 people,

ranging from Cabinet ministers to backbenchers and outside academics, are heaving away on new ideas to be presented to the Prime Minister by the end of June. About 30 groups, each headed by a Secretary of State, are scrutinising every aspect of Whitehall and the next three months will see the climax of brainstorming sessions that will help to determine Mr Major's fate as he seeks a fifth consecutive Tory victory.

Norman Blackwell, the new head of the Downing Street policy unit, has also trawled the right-wing think-tanks for fresh ideas. The outcome of the exercise could also help to

scotch the charge that under Mr Major's leadership the Tories have run out of steam.

Mr Major has asked the groups to come up with ideas that are fresh, innovative, relevant and popular. But he does not want radicalism for the sake of it. "There is no need to dynamite institutions simply to make a point," one insider said yesterday.

Under the staffroom buy-out plan hatched by the SMF, one of the more middle-of-the-road Tory think-tanks, teachers would be allowed to buy shares or a financial stake in schools where they worked. Ultimately a group of teachers could own a whole school, and sell services to the State.

The proposal will be put to next session of the public service policy group, chaired by David Hunt, the Cabinet troubleshooter, as part of a more ambitious plan to use market forces more widely in the public sector and link professionals more closely with Government reforms.

The SMF believes that professionals such as teachers and doctors feel they have been betrayed by public sector reforms and need to be given an incentive to sign up to further policy changes.

Dr Sheila Lawlor, deputy director of the Centre for Policy Studies, yesterday identified



education and welfare reform as two key areas where the Government needs a policy overhaul. Dr Lawlor wants a voucher system in schools, saying it would encourage good schools to expand and bad ones to close. Parent power would be enhanced at the expense of town hall bureaucrats and teachers would benefit because more money would be spent at the chalkface.

Quite possibly, all schools would be made grant-maintained and freed of council control, but however the system was ordered money would genuinely follow the

pupil. A board committed to traditional academic standards and competing with the present boards would also be created.

Dr Lawlor wants fundamental changes to the welfare state designed to restore the link between contributions and benefits and to cut the £80 billion social security budget. She argues that this would bolster the traditional Tory value of self-reliance eroded by the growing "socialist" tendency to fund benefits out of taxation and to pay them irrespective of contribution records.

She also wants friendly

societies and private insurance firms to assume responsibility from the State for managing people's contributions and ensuring that they get a decent return on their investments in their old age. But a publicly funded safety net would still apply for those unable, through unemployment, sickness or social reasons, such as lone parenthood, to pay their way.

She set out her thinking to the Social Security Committee in January. "We should get away from the idea of an anonymous and large welfare state, and we should look again at the very principles

which suited this country — which were based on contribution and self-reliance ... not based on redistributive taxation as the basis for welfare."

Typically, each manifesto group has a dozen members, including the Secretary of State, the relevant junior ministers in the department, and the chairman of the backbench Tory committee. All the groups have until the end of June to produce a report, the contents of which will have to be approved and polished by the relevant Secretary of State before being sent to the Prime Minister.

Tory MPs stalled in attempt to oust Janner

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

TORY MPs last night launched an attempt to remove Greville Janner from his post as head of the parliamentary inquiry into high executive salaries.

But the senior Labour MP was given a seven-day stay of execution because a motion proposing his replacement as chairman of the Select Committee on Employment during its investigation was defeated for procedural reasons.

Six Tory members on the committee decided privately on Monday night to try to remove Mr Janner because of alleged conflicts of interests and the "battering" way in which he has been handling the inquiry.

He is a director of the JSB Group, which advises several companies including British Gas. He has also been criticised for his role in the award of a massive salary and share option scheme to the chairman and directors of the betting and leisure company Ladbrokes. Mr Janner is a non-



Janner: said to have conflicting interests

executive director and member of the Remuneration Committee of Ladbrokes plc, whose chairman earns £583,000 a year — about £108,000 more than the British Gas boss Cedric Brown, who has made two appearances before the committee.

A Commons motion calling for Mr Janner's resignation said that his business activities represented "a conflict of interest with his current position as chairman of the Employment Select Committee".

When Warren Hawkey, one of the Tory members, moved the motion proposing Mr Janner's removal at a private meeting yesterday, Labour MPs said that it was out of order because the required 24 hours' notice had not been given. The issue will therefore be discussed again next week when the Tories plan to retable their motion.

Mr Janner is expected to fight to stay in the post by offering assurances to his fellow members that he will lead the investigation in a more conciliatory fashion. Although that will not be enough for most of the Tories, Mr Janner could still survive if he manages to satisfy one or two of them.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: In the Commons, questions to health ministers were followed by Prime Minister's Questions, taken in John Major's absence by Tony Newton, Leader of the House. MPs debated the second reading of the Atomic Energy Authority Bill and the Migrant Workers Act (Transfer of Functions of Civil Industry) Bill. The House debated the Pensions Bill and the Civil Evidence Bill.

TODAY: The Commons sits at 10am for backbenchers' Questions. Questions to environment ministers at 2.30pm will be followed by estimates debates on Trade Development and the Environment. The House will then debate the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill which has its second reading.

Hanley ends search for new media chief

HUGH COLVER, a former PR chief at the Defence Ministry, was last night appointed director of communications at Conservative Central Office (Nicholas Wood writes).

There had been prolonged speculation over who might replace Tim Collins, who is joining the Downing Street Policy Unit, and suggestions that the Tory high command was struggling to fill the post. Last night, party insiders

dismissed these suggestions but indicated that Jeremy Hanley, the party chairman, had hesitated over the kind of figure he was seeking.

Mr Colver, 49, spent his earlier career as a journalist on the *Financial Times*, and was head of public relations at the MoD from 1987-92, a period that spanned the Gulf War, for which he won the CBE. Since then he has been with British Aerospace.

MPs want self-regulation, but have yet to show that it works

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Parliament is on trial — and many senior MPs do not seem to realise it. The privileges and members' interests committees of the Commons are behaving as if the Nolan Inquiry did not exist. But it does, and it is sitting in judgment on them. The decisions of these committees will, and should, influence the report of the Nolan committee, expected in mid-May.

The work of the committees and of the Nolan inquiry is in parallel. The allegations against various Tory MPs being investigated by the former were also one of the main reasons for the creation of the Nolan committee on broader issues of standards in public life. This has involved examining whether the

rules affecting MPs should be tightened and whether an independent element should be introduced into the system of self-regulation.

If the Commons cannot handle its current investigations, into accepting cash for tabling questions and not declaring a paid-for overseas trip, then the case for self-regulation looks weak. MPs are not helping themselves. The inquiries have been under way for several months with no end in sight. Admittedly, the work of the privileges committee was held up for some time by Tony Benn's desire to open up its proceed-

ings to public gaze. But that is not the real reason for the delay. The privileges committee met for a long session on Monday and is unlikely to meet again for two weeks.

There are suspicions of Tory delaying tactics, but the real difficulty is the inherent weakness of such procedures. The privileges committee is, at 17 strong, unwieldy, and in the past has had a tendency to defer reaching decisions. MPs find it very hard to reach judgments on the actions of their colleagues and, in particular, to recommend penalties. The committee is handicapped by the absence of clear rules or an ethical consensus among MPs about acceptable conduct. That is the main problem now. Which Tory

MPs are going to recommend taking sanctions, including possible suspension from the Commons, against party colleagues when the Tories have such a slim majority.

The members' interests committee is, as Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith admitted in evidence to the Nolan inquiry, not really equipped to undertake investigations into the conduct of MPs, as opposed to supervising the register of interests. There is a strong case for streamlining current arrangements, perhaps merging the privileges and members' interests committees and having a smaller sub-committee to undertake quicker and simpler enquiries into whether a breach of the House's rules has occurred. This

was the view of a number of influential senior MPs, such as Sir Terence Higgins. In their evidence to the Nolan inquiry.

But the central question is whether self-regulation can be maintained. Most professions have accepted the need for an independent, outside element in audit and regulation, to maintain public confidence. Parliament is different in the sense that MPs are only there because of the decisions of voters. Hence, MPs should not be removed or disciplined by any group involving people who have not been elected. Many MPs believe that the Commons would reject any proposal by the Nolan inquiry to end self-regulation. But existing procedures

are clearly inadequate, as the current delays show. There is room for an ethics advisory office, which has an independent status and is responsible for compliance with the rules of the Commons and conducts inquiries into alleged breaches. This could be akin to the National Audit Office which examines government accounts. The new office could report to a commission or committee including outsiders. But final decisions on whether MPs should be disciplined would be taken by all members of the Commons, as now. If MPs want to maintain self-regulation, they need to show it works. They have not yet done so.

PETER RIDDELL

Director of Ofgas admits to being unaccountable

By Nigel Williamson, Whitehall Correspondent

CLARE SPOTTISWODE, the gas regulator, admitted yesterday that she was not accountable to anyone and called for a public debate on how the regulators should be regulated.

In a candid speech to a conference in London organised by the constitutional reform pressure group Charter 88, Ms Spottiswode asked: "What is our accountability?" The director general of Ofgas provided her own answer: "In truth very little." She said that she and the other four utility regulators had deliberately and rightly been removed from government control to preserve their independence. However, that had produced "a conundrum which needs to be thought through".

Ms Spottiswode said that the annual report she supplied to Parliament was "not worth the paper it is written on" and went "virtually un-



Spottiswode: "System needs to be debated"

read". She also said that she was "not really" accountable to MPs, even through the select committees system. "I have given evidence to four select committees in the past year. Two have come up with diametrically opposite conclusions... The committees are a snapshot, they are not representative of Parliament."

There was further scrutiny by the National Audit Office and, ultimately, by judicial review, but Ms Spottiswode questioned whether that was adequate. "Is there an appropriate body which could take the regulator to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for a weak decision?"

"The system does work well but is very dependent on an individual. It needs to be debated. We cannot assume the current system is right."

Ms Spottiswode refused to be drawn into the row over the salary of Mr Cedric Brown, chief executive of British Gas. "Salary setting is an issue for the company," she said. "It is politics, and for politicians and not for the regulator to get involved." Her job, she said, was to protect the consumer. "Pay doesn't cost the consumer a penny. It costs the shareholders."

Information code 'poorly publicised'

By Nigel Williamson

THE Government's freedom of information code has failed to ignite the public's imagination. Whitehall's first annual report on open government shows.

A lack of publicity was immediately blamed by campaigners who called on the Government to put money into advertising the code's existence.

The code requires government departments and other public bodies to volunteer information on major policy decisions as well as to answer requests for information.

During the first nine months after the code's introduction last April, departments processed 2,600 requests for information. This compares with 36,500 requests last year in Australia, where a freedom of information act has been in operation since 1982.

A total of 89 requests were

refused in full and 21 in part. The Parliamentary Ombudsman received 28 complaints and ordered the Department of Transport to publish a suppressed report on the Birmingham Northern relief road and the Department of Health to publish information about contacts between officials and the pharmaceutical industry.

David Hunt, the Minister for Open Government, claimed yesterday that the code was having "a positive effect". However, he conceded that the right of appeal to the ombudsman had not been widely used.

Maurice Frankel, the director of the Freedom of Information campaign, said: "There was such a culture of secrecy for so long that people think it is not worth asking. If the Government wants to change that culture it has to tell the audience."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

British envoy attacks arrears of Nigeria

BRITAIN'S "deep" and "sincere" interest in Nigeria's economic recovery was "not shared" by the Nigerian government, a British envoy said yesterday. The envoy, who was in Nigeria for a week, said that the British government was "not happy" with the Nigerian government's failure to pay its arrears to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Army trimmed

Bombing of a British ship in the Persian Gulf was "not a surprise" to the British government, a spokesman said yesterday. The spokesman said that the British government was "not surprised" by the bombing of the British ship *Sheffield* in the Persian Gulf in 1982.

Election date

Johannesburg: The South African government has announced that it will hold a referendum on the future of the country in 1994. The referendum will be held on a date to be determined by the government.

Tibet aid

Peking: The Chinese government has announced that it will provide aid to the Tibetan people. The aid will be in the form of food, clothing, and other necessities.

Children hurt

Pisa: A group of children were injured in a fire in Pisa, Italy. The fire broke out in a building that was used as a school. The children were taken to hospital and are now recovering.

Jumbo sale

London: A jumbo sale of books and other items is taking place in London. The sale is being held by a charity and the proceeds will be used to support the charity's work.

Fresh allegations against top official rock White House

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

JANET RENO, the US Attorney-General, announced yesterday that she is appointing a special prosecutor to investigate Clinton's Housing Secretary, dealing another blow to his Administration.

Ms Reno alleged that Mr Cisneros had made false statements to the FBI during background checks before his appointment. The issue was how much money he had paid to Linda Medlar, a former mistress, and her daughter after breaking off the extramarital affair that led to his resignation as Mayor of San Antonio in 1989.

Ms Reno's decision will compound the embarrassment of Mr Clinton, who took office promising that his Administration would set the highest ethical standards. Since then one after another of his top officials have been brought down.

One special prosecutor is investigating Mr Clinton himself over the Whitewater affair. Another is investigating Mike Espy, the former Agriculture Secretary, who accepted gifts from an Arkansas poultry company he was supposed to be regulating. The appointment of a third prosecutor to investigate Mr Cisneros will set a new record for any Administration.

In addition Ms Reno's Justice Department is deciding if it should appoint special prosecutors to investigate the financial dealings of both Ron Brown, the Commerce Secretary, and Federico Pena, the Transportation Secretary.

The list of other top officials who have been forced to resign under ethical clouds or worse includes Webster Hubbell, the associate Attorney-General, Roger Altman, the Treasury Secretary, Bernard Nussbaum, the White House counsel, David Watkins, the White House director of administration, Jean Hanson, the Treasury counsel, and William Kennedy, an associate White House counsel.

Mr Cisneros was rescued by Mr Clinton in 1993 after the disclosure of his affair had apparently ended his political

career. He is one of only two Hispanics in the Cabinet and one of its more prominent, innovative members. He is presently leading a drive to reduce drastically the size of his own department.

Ms Reno told a special court that she will appoint Mr Cisneros's prosecutor that the Housing Secretary had acknowledged his affair with Ms Medlar but "stated to the FBI that he had paid her no more than \$2,500 (£1,560) at a time and no more than \$10,000 a year. In fact he paid her more than \$2,500 at various times, and his total annual payments to her were between \$42,000 and \$60,000," she said. He had made one payment "substantially larger than \$2,500" just days before making his statement to the FBI.

Ms Reno said Mr Cisneros's false statements might have ensured that he was given his Cabinet job. She added that the prosecutor, who is still to be named, should "evaluate

tapes of conversations in which he discussed the payments and disparaged FBI attempts to learn more about them. To compound Mr Cisneros's problems, Ms Medlar is now suing him for \$256,000 she claims he agreed to pay her for the heartache, divorce and loss of her job that resulted from her affair with him.

Victorian values Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, has suggested that America should embrace the values of Victorian Britain and use moral leadership and "shame" as instruments for curbing illegitimate births, drunkenness and drug addiction (Ian Brodie writes).

Mr Gingrich, who has quietly dropped his earlier support for orphanages as a substitute for welfare, declared his fondness for Dickensian times during an address in Washington to the National League of Cities. The Victorians, he said, "reduced the number of children born out of wedlock by almost 50 per cent. They changed the whole momentum of their society. They didn't do it through a new bureaucracy. They did it by re-establishing values, by moral leadership and by being willing to look at people in the face and say: 'You should be ashamed when you get drunk in public. You ought to be ashamed if you're a drug addict.'"

The leader of the Republican revolution on Capitol Hill said he had realised all this as he read an essay by Gertrude Himmelfarb, an emeritus history professor at the City University of New York and the author of a new book, *The De-Moralisation of Society: from Victorian Values to Modern Values*.

In drawing comparisons between the 19th century and today, Dr Himmelfarb argues that illegitimacy in Victorian England declined from 7 to 4 per cent; in the past three decades in America it has risen from 3 per cent to more than 30 per cent. Similarly, Victorian crime declined by 50 per cent, but has risen in America by 300 per cent.



Cisneros: dispute over payments to mistress

whether there was an agreement between Medlar and Secretary Cisneros to conceal information concerning his payments to Medlar during the confirmation process in violation of the conspiracy statute.

Mr Cisneros has insisted that any discrepancies in his statements to the FBI were accidental, but Ms Medlar has helped undermine her former lover by releasing



THE body of Abdul Ali Mazari, the opposition Hezb-i-Wahadat faction leader, pictured above with two Taleban militiamen before he died, has been handed over by his captors, an Afghan minister said yesterday. Mohammed Ali Javed leader of the pro-government Harakat-i-Islami

Afghan leader's remains handed over

and the Planning Minister, said Taleban delivered nine bodies of captured Hezb-i-Wahadat officials to Harakat-i-Islami's headquarters yesterday. One of the bodies was that of

Mazari. "We still don't know how they died," Mr Javed said. Earlier reports said Mazari was killed by his captors. Yesterday Taleban launched an attack against troops loyal to

President Rabbani on the southern front lines, gaining a hilltop but losing a number of fighters. The Taleban, a force of students trained in Pakistani Koranic schools, want to establish an Islamic government, taking power from warring Mujahidin leaders. (Reuters/AFI)

Philippines seeks more protection for workers

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

TWO days before a Filipino maid is due to be hanged in Singapore, Roberto Romulo, the Philippines Foreign Minister, has called on Britain to support a new United Nations convention to give more protection to migrant workers.

Speaking at the start of a five-day visit to Britain by President Ramos, Mr Romulo said he was appalled that only five countries had signed a convention which he hoped would be discussed by the International Labour Organisation.

More than two million Filipinos work in Europe and the Middle East, and in several publicised cases maids working in the Gulf have been beaten, abused, and prevented from leaving by their employers. Manila has refused to issue passports valid for some Middle East countries where maids have been abused.

Mr Romulo said his Government had called for a stay of execution in the case of Flor Contemplacion, a 42-year-old maid convicted of murdering another Filipino maid and the three-year-old son of her employer. Mr Romulo said his Government did not want to interfere in Singapore's justice system, but hoped the case could be reviewed in the light of new evidence.

Mr Romulo said that the visit of President Ramos, who had lunch yesterday at Buckingham Palace, would focus largely on Philippine efforts to build up commercial relations with Europe.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Malaysian Prime Minister, is also in Britain on a private visit, but has held talks with Alistair Goodlad, a junior Foreign Office minister. British officials were yesterday pleased with Dr Mahathir's remarks at a dinner, when he said he had put behind him last year's row with Britain over the Pergau Dam.

Manila: A Philippine mayor and six aides were sentenced to seven life terms each for the rape and murder of a 21-year-old student and the killing of her friend, 19. The case stirred publicity in a nation where rich and politically powerful offenders are rarely brought to justice. (Reuters)

Russians fly American into space

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

TWO decades after an American and a Soviet spacecraft linked up 140 miles above the Earth, an American yesterday became the first astronaut to fly aboard a Russian rocket.

On an icy, windswept day at the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, Norman Thagard blasted off with a Soyuz rocket and two Russian cosmonauts. They were headed for the orbiting space station Mir. "To see a US astronaut sitting there for the first time in a Russian space suit, next to his Russian commander, I think it's wonderful," said Will Trafton, a NASA official watching the launch.

As well as boosting US-Russian relations, which have recently suffered a series of setbacks over the war in Chechnya, yesterday's launch served a more practical purpose. Mr Thagard's scheduled

90-day journey will set a new American record for time spent in space. Already on board Mir is Valeri Ploskov, who has been there for some 420 days.

Americans and Russians, together with Europeans, Canadians and the Japanese, are having to grow accustomed to increased co-operation in space as they prepare to build the international Alpha space station, a multibillion-pound project scheduled to be completed in three stages by 2002.

Mr Thagard, a former US Marine flyer, has spent a year preparing for the mission at Russia's Star City complex outside Moscow. He says he found learning Russian hard, but the gruelling physical preparations for the mission. He has clearly earned the trust and respect of his Russian colleagues, and will be left in

sole control of Mir when they undertake a planned series of spacewalks. Mir is scheduled to link up in June with the American space shuttle Atlantis, which will be carrying a

London: The parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe yesterday expressed "deep regret" at the Duma's decision to dismiss Sergei Kovalev as Russia's human rights commissioner. It praised his "exemplary courage" for opposing the action in Chechnya.

crew of five Americans and two Russians.

President Yeltsin: The Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan was in the grip of a constitutional crisis yesterday

after a majority of deputies in parliament refused to accept President Nazarbayev's dissolution order. A group of 130 parliamentarians in the 170-seat chamber unanimously voted to contest a constitutional court ruling that parliament was illegitimate because of unfair elections last year.

In Chechnya, General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the breakaway republic's fugitive leader, promised yesterday to carry the bloody war from his breakaway republic on to the streets of Russia's cities. Speaking in a hideout in southern Chechnya, the former Soviet air force officer said that "suicide squads" were being prepared for guerrilla operations and that Russian officials responsible for the three-month assault on the republic would be targeted for reprisal attacks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

British envoy attacks arrest of Nigerian

BRITAIN yesterday expressed "deep concern" over the Nigerian military Government's arrest of General Oluasegun Obasanjo, a former military ruler who was accused of involvement in a coup plot (Michael Binyon writes).

The British High Commissioner has been instructed to make representations to every member of the regime to whom he has access. General Obasanjo has been invited to take part in the Government's high profile conference on Britain's place in the world later this month. British officials still hope he will attend.

Army trimmed

Bonn: Volker Rühle, the Defence Minister, proposed shutting 19 military bases and reducing personnel at 28 others as Germany slims down its armed forces in the post-Cold War era. (Reuters)

Election date

Johannesburg: Local elections will be held throughout South Africa on November 13. President Mandela said. Only a few people, mostly whites, have so far registered to vote. They must do so by April 28.

Tibet aid

Peking: Aid packages have been dropped from helicopters to about 127,000 Tibetans, isolated without food since the middle of last month after the heaviest snowfalls in 50 years. (AFP)

Children hurt

Pisa: A three-year-old gypsy boy and his sister, 13, were seriously injured when a booby-trapped doll given to them by a passing motorist exploded as they begged in this Italian city. (AFP)

Jumbo sale

Budapest: Lions' whiskers, crocodile teeth, a giraffe's shinbone and rare plants are among objects to be auctioned by Budapest Zoo to help replace an elephant died of pneumonia. (AFP)

Clinton blocks oil contract with Iran

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton blocked an American oil company's billion-dollar contract with Iran yesterday, citing the Tehran Government's continued support for terrorism as well as its undermining of the Middle East peace process and pursuit of nuclear weapons and delivery systems.

Conoco of Houston had planned to develop two huge offshore oil and gas fields for Iran near the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf. Conoco's Dutch subsidiary had won the contract in competition with two French companies, Elf Aquitaine and Total, after three years of negotiations.

The agreement had drawn increasing criticism in Washington and from influential board members of Conoco's parent, Du Pont, the world's largest chemical company. Eventually, Conoco suggested that a presidential executive order banning all such deals would provide a graceful way for it to withdraw.

When Mr Clinton formally signs the order within a few days it will prevent Conoco and other US companies, as well as American citizens, from entering into any contracts for the financing, supervision or management of oil development projects in Iran. The order runs counter to the Administration's usual posture of energetically promot-

ing US business overseas. "We need to send a clear and unequivocal message to Iran that there can be no normal relations until Iran's unacceptable behaviour changes," said Mike McCurry, White House spokesman. US commerce with Iran has been banned since 1979 in retaliation for the seizure of the US Embassy by Islamic militants.

The White House statement said the Administration had worked co-operatively with senior executives of Conoco and "the President appreciates the willingness of Conoco to work with us on this important issue". Iran, the White House said, had been pressured to mend its ways to no avail. To allow American companies to finance or manage oil and gas resources would simply increase Iran's productive capacity and economic strength. Mindful that one of the French companies might now take up the contract, the Administration called on other nations to co-operate in imposing similar sanctions on Iran.

The statement said Washington had worked closely with allied governments to prevent Iran's access to goods that would enhance its military capabilities. Washington had also sought to limit Iran's resources by opposing subsidised lending.

Bulls' star sparks a stampede

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK



Jordan: Wall Street rises on his anticipated return

IN A sign of the extraordinary commercial power wielded by American celebrity sportsmen, stocks of companies promoted by Michael Jordan have surged amid rumours that the basketball star may be returning to the sport he dominated after a season as a minor league baseball player.

Jordan, 32, has yet to announce his return to the Chicago Bulls, the team he led to victory in the NBA for three consecutive years. Since last Thursday, when his possible return was mooted, the combined Wall Street value

of the five companies he endorses has swelled by \$2.3 billion (£1.4 billion).

Jordan retired 17 months ago to play baseball. But a poor batting record has persuaded him to return to basketball, reports said.

On his retirement Jordan had the highest scoring record in basketball history and an income to match. Even in minor-league baseball, he earned \$30 million a year from advertising, more than twice that of any other sportsman. If he returns to basketball his salary is expected to climb still higher.

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Germans welcome Krenz charges

Berlin Politburo chiefs to be tried

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

EGON KRENZ, the former leader of East Germany, is to be tried with six other former members of the Politburo on charges of authorising the killing of people who tried to clamber to freedom over the Berlin Wall.

The 57-year-old former party chief who replaced Erich Honecker, has been working as a "business consultant" since the collapse of the East German state. Until yesterday, when the indictment was issued, he seemed confident that the case would be suspended or that he would be granted an amnesty. But the prosecutor, who has prepared 1,600 pages of evidence, said that the charges would be pressed and hinted that the trial would begin next year.

According to the indictment, two of the accused, 84-year-old Erich Muckenberg and Kurt Hager, the 82-year-old former party ideologist, "actively contributed" to fundamental Politburo decisions

concerning the implementation of the East-West death strip. The other defendants, including Herr Krenz, are accused of neglecting the opportunity, as fully-fledged Politburo members, to relax the border measures and thus prevent the killing and wounding of escapees. The death strip included minefields, automatically triggered machineguns and motorised patrols of border troops.

The German press hailed the decision. The north Bavarian *Kurier* reminded readers that Erich Mielke, head of the former Stasi secret police, has been sentenced to jail and the late Honecker was at least put on trial while Herr Krenz remained free. "Krenz was a criminal. It is difficult to understand why he is not sitting in prison... he blessed every perversion against escapees and allowed people to be shot like rabbits."

The charge clearly states that Herr Krenz violated East

German law, since the order to shoot would be defectors violated human rights treaties approved by the East German state. But it will nonetheless be difficult to make the rather vague charges stick: Herr Krenz is, in effect, being charged with a negative act — not using his position to change an inhuman ruling. If nothing else, the trial should provide a remarkable insight into the workings of the leadership of a communist state.

The widow of Herr Honecker is meanwhile said to be anxious to leave her Chilean exile and return to Germany. Since her husband's death in Chile last year, and the marital problems of her daughter, married to a Chilean, she has been making inquiries about coming home. "This emerged yesterday on the fringes of a visit to Bonn by President Frei of Chile. The critical question is whether she can be given immunity from prosecution if she returns to Germany."



Arno Funke, who extorted money using techniques in Donald Duck cartoons, outside a Berlin court before being jailed yesterday

Police get last laugh on cartoon criminal

BY ROGER BOYES

AN ECCENTRIC German extortionist who modelled his crimes on the comic strips of Donald Duck was yesterday jailed for seven years and nine months.

Arno Funke, known as Dagobert — the German version of the money-obsessed Uncle Scrooge McDuck (right), Donald's rich relative — was found guilty of six bomb attacks and trying to extort money from the KaDeWe department store in Berlin and the Karstadt chain.

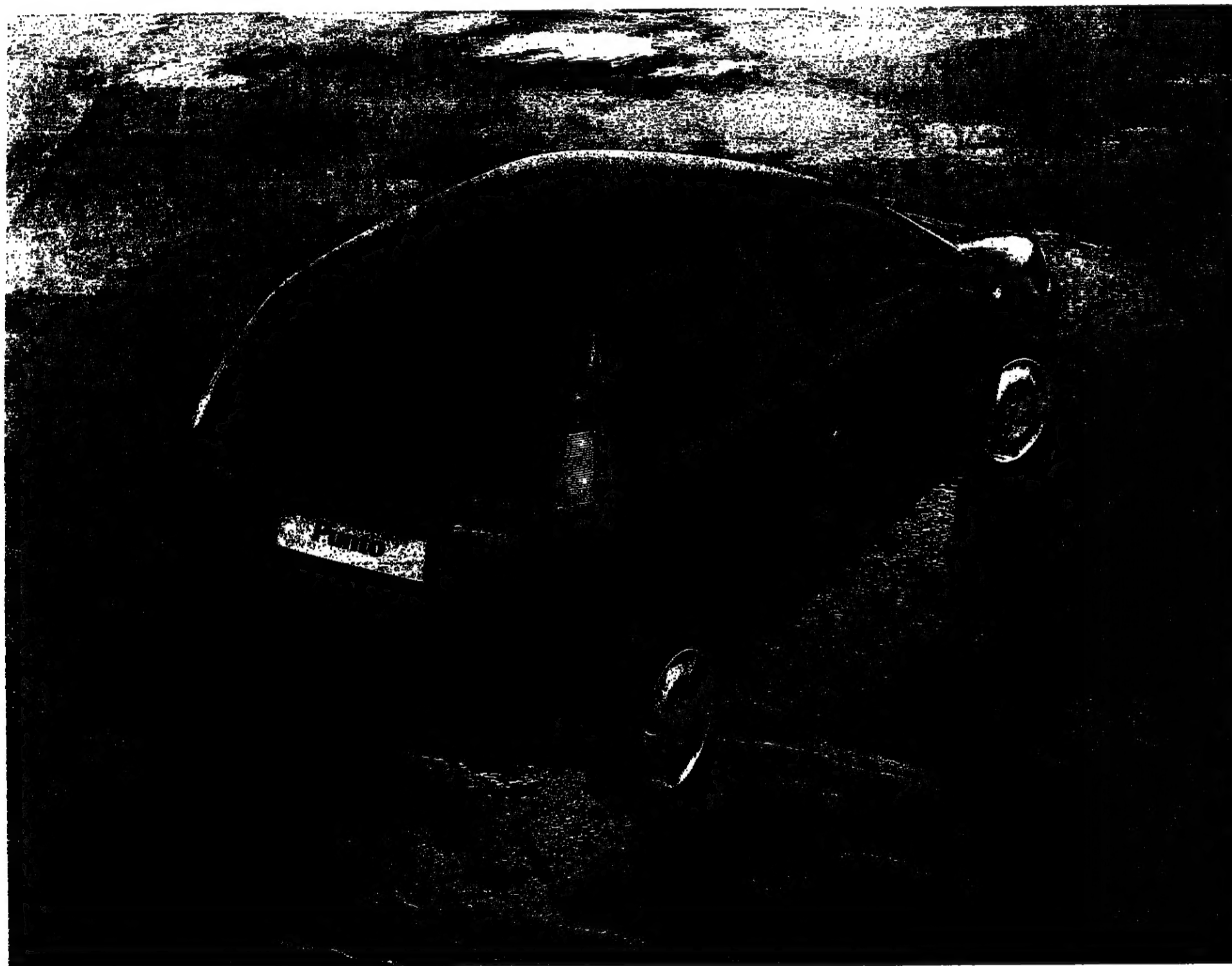
Funke has become something of a folk hero because of his repeated narrow escapes from the police and his ingenious tricks in arranging the transfer of money. On one occasion he demanded that the ransom be attached by a magnet to the outside of an express train. Another pick-up was supposed to be made from a remote-controlled toy submarine. On another occasion, a pursuing policeman slipped on a pile of dog excrement, allowing him to escape on a bicycle. He would project his voice with microphones hidden in sewers and use electronic gadgets to throw police off the track.

The extortion plans showed no great imagination. Small bombs were planted in shops and after the explosions, usually at night, Funke would make his demand for millions of marks. His technical skill went into arranging the handover of the



ransom. Almost always the techniques were borrowed from adventures in Donald Duck comics.

Funke, who has an IQ of 145, was described by his lawyers as being mentally ill, suffering deep depression as a result of inhaling fumes during his work as a varnisher. The Donald Duck escapades were his way of keeping sane, they said. He said yesterday: "I did it because I feared the future more than I feared death." He could think of no other way of becoming financially secure.



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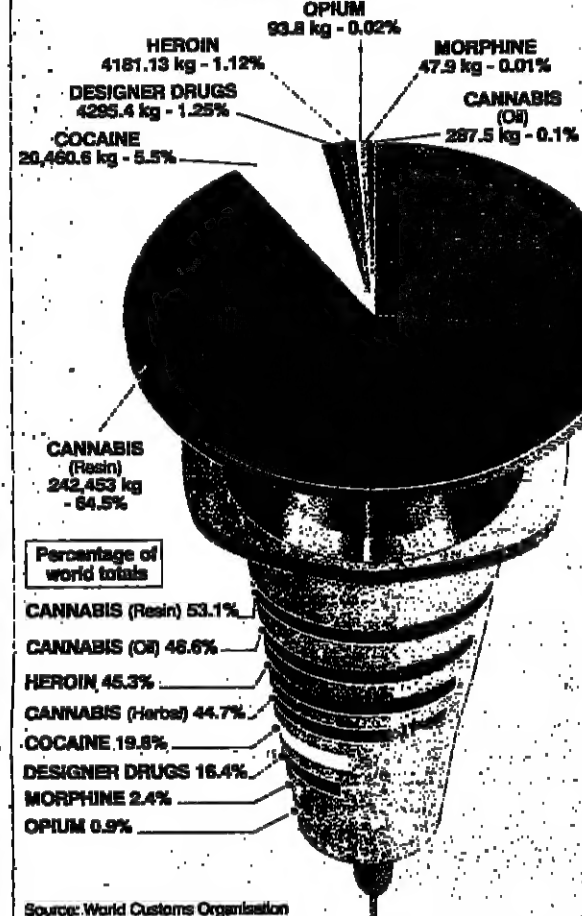
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DRUG SEIZURES IN WESTERN EUROPE

Selected categories 1994



Colombia's leader blames Europe for drugs trade boom

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN BRUSSELS

EUROPE's external frontier is one of the weakest links in the international effort to stamp out the burgeoning traffic in cocaine, Ernesto Samper, the President of Colombia, said yesterday.

Cocaine exports will continue to grow until consumer countries recognise that they, not producer countries, are the primary cause of the international drugs problem and have the courage to implement policies to stamp out the trade, President Samper said.

His indictment of Europe's anti-drug policies coincides with the publication of the latest figures collected by the World Customs Organisation, which show that European seizures of cocaine alone have almost doubled to 20,450 kilos (45,466lbs) over the past year. Spain and Portugal remain the main gateway for cocaine into Europe, although seizures in Holland, especially Rotterdam, which handles 40 per cent of Europe's external trade, and Britain, have increased dramatically.

The increase comes as most members of the European Union are preparing to abolish internal frontiers. But many critics fear that the new external barrier will be no match for the combination of Colombian cartels, Italian Mafia and East European gangsters, who have set their sights on Europe as the next big market for cocaine.

President Samper said Europe would have to spend far greater amounts of money tightening up its external frontiers, educating citizens about the dangers of drug usage, encouraging co-operation with international anti-drug enforcement agencies, and enabling peasant farmers to abandon the cultivation of the coca plant. Only then would Europe avoid developing a drugs problem similar to America's, he said.

In a clear attempt to shift the blame for the global drugs

crisis on to consumer countries, President Samper told *The Times*: "If there was no consumption, there would be no production." Countries like Colombia have simply become the "scapegoats" for the growth in Western drug dependency, he added.

Few politicians in Europe and America appreciate the enormous price Colombia has had to pay in its battle with the cocaine cartels, he said. Since the late 1980s, 3,400 Colombians have been killed, four presidential candidates have been assassinated, and billions of pounds have been spent trying to destroy coca plants and cocaine laboratories.

Since taking office in 1994, President Samper's Government has stepped up the war against drug cartels, while at the same time denouncing the rest of the world for not doing enough to stamp out demand and clamp down on money laundering.

In the first six months of his administration, the Government has seized about 40 tonnes of refined cocaine, destroyed an estimated 7,000 hectares (17,500 acres) of coca crops, and confiscated around 500,000 gallons of related manufacturing chemicals. It has also set itself the target of destroying all cocaine, opium and marijuana cultivation over the next two years. The country has an estimated 390 square miles under cultivation.

During discussions with European Commission officials in Brussels over the past two days, President Samper has asked for greater financial assistance to encourage peasant farmers to abandon coca plant cultivation in favour of alternative sources of income. He also sought increased co-operation from crossing international frontiers, and an international convention against money laundering.

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سكوت الوكيل

Angry Canadians say Spanish have resumed fishing

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

JACQUES ROY, the Canadian Ambassador to the European Union yesterday stepped up the "fish war", accusing Spanish fishermen of criminal conduct in their exploitation of scarce stocks in the north-western Atlantic.

At the same time, Brian Tobin, Canada's Fisheries Minister, announced in Ottawa that Spanish trawlers had resumed fishing in international waters off the coast of Newfoundland in a "provocative" manner.

Mr Roy said that an investigation of the contents of the *Estai*, the Spanish trawler whose capture by a Canadian gunboat precipitated the crisis, found that the Spanish captain had under-reported his catch of Greenland halibut by more than 50 per cent.

The Ambassador said that "what the inspectors found should be a shock to the conscience of the world. On the evidence so far, crimes have been committed against

conservation". For additional impact he added that "this is far worse than we could imagine in our worst nightmares". He said the normal size of adult Greenland halibut was between 60 and 70cm (23-27 inches) while 79 per cent of the *Estai's* load consisted of turbot less than 38cm in size. He said these results could only occur if the size of fishing net used was 60mm, as opposed to the mandatory 130mm.

The EU categorically denies Canada's allegations that the *Estai* broke international law, even if it was using small mesh nets or under-reported its catch. The rules of fishing in the region are set by the North-West Atlantic Fisheries Organisation, whose quotas and rules have only the status of recommendations and do not fall under the scope of international law.

The EU maintains that Canada's decision to seize the trawler was a clear violation of

international maritime law. One official said: "This is not about mesh sizes. It is about the principle of flouting international law."

The Spanish Government yesterday decided to impose visa restrictions for Canadian visitors, and is considering breaking off diplomatic relations with Ottawa. Spain has also called on the EU to impose economic sanctions, but this has so far been rejected by the Commission and EU diplomats.

Emma Bonino, the European Fisheries Commissioner, said that Europe was ready to start negotiations with Ottawa, on condition that the *Estai* is first released. Having originally described the Canadian seizure of the *Estai* in international waters as an "act of organised piracy", Signora Bonino yesterday appeared more conciliatory in her tone, emphasising the need for a diplomatic solution. She also criticised the Spanish decision

to send warships to the north Atlantic.

Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner in charge of external relations, said: "I am interested in de-escalating this thing, and not escalating it."

Despite Monday's decision by EU ambassadors to break off top-level talks, the Euro-

pean Commission was yesterday understood to have been in secret talks with the Canadian authorities. Canada's decision to charge the captain, and subsequently to release him on bail, was seen by the EU potentially as a gesture of goodwill. If a similarly ambiguous process was applied to the trawler as well, negotia-

tions between the two sides may stand a better chance of being resumed, according to one source.

If Canada refuses to release the trawler, the EU is almost certain to introduce further retaliatory measures. Trade sanctions will be considered only as a last resort. A further erosion of diplomatic contacts

is considered more likely. Madrid: Spain last night threatened to take tough measures against Canada if the *Estai* was not released by 9am today. Luis Ajenza, the Fisheries Minister, said Canada was now "confronted by international opposition".



Emma Bonino, Europe's Fishing Commissioner, announcing a willingness to reopen talks if Canada frees the *Estai*

Street violence spreads to Ankara

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

THE agents provocateurs who opened fired at random down a street lined with coffee shops in a poor suburb of Istanbul succeeded beyond their wildest ambitions. The Gaziosmanpaşa area of the city was still under curfew yesterday after a night and a day of rioting in which at least 16 people were killed.

The trouble spread yesterday to Ankara where riot police broke up a rally, using batons, water cannons and dogs to beat back crowds enraged by the trouble in Istanbul. Demonstrators attacked police with sticks and stones. About a dozen police armoured vehicles chased demonstrators, including women, down Ankara's Atatürk Boulevard to the main Kızılay Square.

The rally had been organised by the "Democracy Platform", a liberal bloc of human rights associations. Smaller protests in several Istanbul districts and universities, and the western towns of Bursa, Izmir and Izmit, ended without violence.

The attack which started it all was reminiscent of some of the worst street violence of the 1970s and has led to speculation that the perpetrators were embarking on a campaign to incite a military coup like that which occurred in 1980. The incident appeared also to be calculated to destroy the euphoria which accompanied agreement between the European Union and Turkey to proceed towards a customs union.

Around Gaziosmanpaşa last night an uneasy peace reigned between police and demonstrators manning barricades.

The intended victims of Sunday night's violence were members of the Alawite community, a heterodox Islamic group which commands the support of an estimated quarter of the Turkish population. Local residents of an industrial neighbourhood near Istanbul airport took to the streets after a man was killed in a coffee shop and an Alawite place of worship fired upon. Protesters accused the police of staging the attack.

Balladur nails colours to European mast

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

EDOUARD Balladur, the Gaullist Prime Minister of France, yesterday seized the banner of Europe as he struggled to relaunch a presidential campaign that is staggering under the onslaught of Jacques Chirac, his party chief.

Professing a faith that contrasted with M. Chirac's ambiguous stance, M. Balladur said the time had come to "embrace a European patriotism driven by a sense of common belonging to some basic principles." Under his leadership, France would strive for a single currency in 1997 and fight for shared social and defence arrangements, he said in Montpellier, in the south. M. Balladur repeated his commitment to a non-federal Europe of nations with France and Germany in the vanguard. He later amplified the point, saying: "What

Europe needs most today is legitimacy with its own public opinion. For a long time to come, that will be expressed through nation states."

The remarks were part of a risky attempt to bring the issue of Europe into the heart of the campaign. Up to now attention has focused on M. Chirac's emergence as the embodiment of Gallic aspirations. Taking heart from a more aggressive M. Balladur, the Prime Minister's team hope they can knock M. Chirac off the European fence which he has so far straddled. A Euro-sceptic by French standards, M. Chirac has avoided specifics as he has wooed both the pro-EU forces of the centre-right and the anti-Maastricht brigade among his Gaullist party and the Left.

While M. Balladur has proclaimed himself a believer in a strong but non-federal Europe, only Lionel Jospin, the Socialist candidate, pro-

fesses to be a champion of full union. The European card is one of the few left for the Balladur team as they watch M. Chirac rising from the political grave to which he had recently been consigned. Polls indicate that M. Chirac, 62, would defeat M. Jospin



Balladur: adopting a more aggressive stance

with about 60 per cent against 40 per cent in the run-off of the election, due on May 7 and that he would attract 65 per cent of votes against M. Balladur's 35 per cent.

M. Balladur, 66, has tried to relaunch himself this week with a more humble and punchy style. He eschewed his usual flowery subjunctives in favour of direct language in an hour-long television appearance. He was aware, he said, that France had not warmed to him. He added that he was a political amateur and the victim of dirty tricks. "In a way, I am in training. But I am firmly determined to do better and to fight." He also promised a 60,000 franc (£7,482) grant for couples buying their first home.

M. Balladur's new pitch completes a dazzling reversal in the eight weeks since he proclaimed his candidature in the position of longstanding favourite. As panic has begun

to set in among the Prime Minister's band of cabinet backers, M. Chirac, a former Prime Minister and two-times loser in presidential elections, has shed his old image as an impetuous bungler in favour of the mantle of serene statesman. Time is running out for M. Balladur. No candidate in the 30 years of the elected presidency has reversed a slide on the scale he is suffering less than six weeks from the first round vote.

The explanation is simple. M. Balladur has failed to transcend his image as a grey technocrat. His promise to "offer reasonable hope" to France cannot compete with M. Chirac's poetic pledges of resurgent Gallic grandeur. "The French need to love, to feel enthusiasm, for someone or something," said *Le Journal du Dimanche*. As a long-time loser, M. Chirac also fits France's preference for leaders who have "crossed the desert" of failure.

Nine French soldiers die in Bosnia crash

FROM JOEL BRAND IN ZAGREB

NINE French peacekeepers were killed in a traffic accident along a treacherous mountain road yesterday in the deadliest single incident of three years of United Nations operations in the former Yugoslavia.

Another four soldiers were seriously injured when the vehicle slid on ice and tumbled off a dirt track on Mount Igman, a UN-patrolled demilitarised zone outside Sarajevo. Their snow vehicle fell 150 ft into a ravine.

Eight of the French soldiers were dead by the time rescue crews arrived, and another died in hospital. French troops have suffered the most casualties of any UN contingent.

Francis Léotard, the French Defence Minister, was to fly to the Bosnian capital yesterday evening to retrieve the bodies, a UN official said. The latest deaths will further

dampen French Government enthusiasm for the UN operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. France has considered withdrawing its forces several times over the past 18 months. Last autumn, it pulled out about 1,000 troops from the Bihać "safe area" in a move that damaged the UN's ability to protect civilians there.

The UN said both the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serbs had co-operated in allowing helicopters to fly in medical teams to evacuate the casualties. The Serbs have been blockading UN operations in Bosnia for the past few weeks. Food and fuel is critically short for British, Dutch and Ukrainian troops in several besieged towns.

Up to yesterday, 140 peacekeepers have been killed in Bosnia and 1,207 injured.



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Arabs delighted by Mrs Major's lone visit to West Bank

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN BETHLEHEM

NORMA MAJOR yesterday angered Israeli officials and delighted Palestinians when she defied Israeli advice and toured one of the largest refugee camps in the Occupied West Bank. She then braved anti-British demonstrations over Iraqi sanctions without her Israeli military escort.

Showing sang froid, the Prime Minister's normally self-effacing wife was praised by Palestinians for showing more courage than her husband, who they blamed for caving into Israeli pressure by calling off a visit to Palestine Liberation Organisation offices in east Jerusalem by a Foreign Office minister.

Protected by a single bodyguard from Scotland Yard, Mrs Major narrowly missed being involved in a stoning attack on the heavily-guarded Israeli police station in Bethlehem's Manger Square. She looked with incomprehension at an Israeli Radio reporter

who asked her whether she felt safe without Israeli troops at her side, and refused to answer his question.

The gratitude of the Palestinians was voiced by Hanna Nassar, the pro-PLO deputy mayor of Bethlehem, who said: "You neglected the advice of the Israelis and we are delighted you came to see for yourself that Bethlehem is safer than any other place in the world." She then presenting her with a giant mother of pearl jewel box, which Mrs Major said she would "enjoy filling".

The rebuffed radio reporter told colleagues the Israelis had been infuriated by what they saw as Mrs Major's snub. She travelled through Israeli road blocks in a Volvo with diplomatic plates accompanied by Elizabeth Dalton, the wife of Britain's senior diplomat in charge of relations with the PLO. The wisdom of the decision not to accept Israeli

guards was demonstrated at Dheishah, the squalid, stinking and violent refugee camp on the outskirts of Bethlehem that houses more than 9,000 Palestinians and is surrounded by a 35 ft-high wire fence.

"There is not a doubt that had Mrs Major come here in the company of Israeli soldiers, her party would have been attacked with rocks and stones," said Borje Lagerstrom, the Finnish operations officer for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. "As it is, her courage has been much admired by the people who live here."

Palestinian feathers had been ruffled by Britain's eleventh-hour decision to send Sir Andrew Green, a Foreign Office official, rather than Douglas Hogg, Minister of State, to PLO headquarters at Orient House in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem. As a result, the talks lasted barely 20 minutes.



Yasser Arafat welcomes John Major in Gaza City yesterday during a visit in which they agreed on EU monitors for forthcoming elections

Prime Minister enters PLO lair bearing aid

FROM ARTHUR LEATHLEY IN GAZA CITY

JOHN Major yesterday became the first Western leader to hold talks with Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, in his Arab heartland.

When the Prime Minister last

visited the occupied territories, he was a backbench MP and Mr Arafat was treated by the West as a pariah. Yesterday Mr Major was warmly greeted by the PLO leader as he crossed the border from Israel and later drove into Gaza City in a heavily-guarded convoy. A planned visit by the Prime Minister to the Shati

refugee camp was cancelled when a member of a Palestinian security unit accidentally shot dead a ten-year-old boy.

Mr Major held talks lasting more than an hour with Mr Arafat before touring the city, including the new police headquarters. The British Government handed over 25 Land Rovers

and 25 minibuses to the force. Mr Major announced a £550,000 aid package and said he had secured Mr Arafat's agreement for European Union monitors to oversee forthcoming elections in Gaza. He also announced £7 million in aid over three years to set up an East European-style "know-how" fund.

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Hindu extremists take control of wealthy Bombay

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE saffron flag of Hindu militancy was raised over the state legislature in Bombay yesterday as zealots took power in India's commercial capital. The development represents a resurgence of Hindu nationalism and the revival of the aggressive *Hindutva* (Hinduness) movement.

Several symbolic changes could come swiftly: Bombay could revert to its ancient name of Mumbai, the official language of the courts may be switched from English to Marathi, and military training may become compulsory for boys and girls. And alcohol may be banned.

These, anyway, are the promises of Bal Thackeray, an instigator of riots and a scourge of Muslims who has become the most powerful man in India's richest region. His feared Shiv Sena organisation, tantamount to a private army, came to power in state elections in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a Hindu group with a violent sectarian record.

Maharashtra state and Bombay, its capital, are the cornerstone of India's economic hopes. It is the most industrialised region, and India would pay dearly if Shiv Sena and the BJP decided to use official machinery to promote their sectarian beliefs.

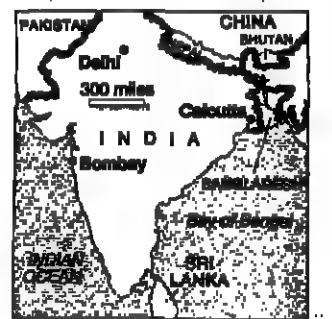
The capture of Maharashtra and the BJP's victory in the neighbouring industrialised state of Gujarat have reversed the fortunes of Hindu hardliners after humiliating electoral defeats last year. While the BJP tends to restrain its rhetoric, Shiv Sena has built a reputation on public Muslim-baiting.

For the Congress party, being mauled in practically all areas of the country, the loss of Bombay is its greatest humiliation, and comes just a year before the next general election. Although the Shiv Sena's Manohar Joshi is Chief Minister, Mr Thacker-

ay is the real power in the new administration.

Muslims are dismayed. Shiv Sena has 40,000 dedicated followers called *Sainiks*, most of them thugs who do Mr Thackeray's bidding. In January 1993 they helped instigate ten days of anti-Muslim rioting that took at least 600 lives until Mr Thackeray ordered a halt by proclaiming: "enough is enough. You have shown [Muslims] their proper place." The BJP and other gangs joined the carnage, forcing thousands of Muslims out of the city and destroying Muslim neighbourhoods. City contractors contributed to the terror so they could grab vacant land.

Mr Thackeray, who urged



Hindus to take up arms, called it a religious crusade. He boasted of Shiv Sena's involvement in the riots in signed editorials in his newspaper, *Samata*, in which he called Muslims traitors. Police, not daring to defy Shiv Sena, stood by while Muslims were slaughtered. The then Congress-controlled state government was paralysed.

Both Shiv Sena and the BJP have pledged to continue economic reforms to attract investment in Bombay, although they are opposed to unchecked Western cultural influences. This could lead to a change of economic direction, with implications for national economic policy.

Leading article, page 17

Iraq coup plot fails

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AN elaborate but unsuccessful attempt was made to overthrow President Saddam Hussein of Iraq earlier this month, according to reports reaching Washington yesterday.

It was organised by Wafiq Samarra, a retired major-general. He was relying on co-ordinated help from Kurds in the north, Shia Muslims in the south and the Iraqi National Congress, the main opposition group. The attempt also de-

pendent on disaffected Iraqi troops, but the army remained loyal, or at least on the sidelines. Having overestimated his support, General Samarra fled to Syria.

Still, the Clinton Administration apparently took the effort seriously. Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, in the Middle East on a diplomatic tour, gave a detailed briefing about the plot to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

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If children spend too long at video games, Libby Purves has some sympathy: it is probably because they have no green space to run around in

A different kind of child abuse

SCIENCE fiction writers always get there first. Years ago, when computers took up whole rooms, there was a story in which mysterious objects fall out of the sky into a simple, rural area. The locals open them up, and find nothing but a few toys — brightly coloured cubes and puzzles. So they give them to the children.

After a week or two, the children start asking unusual questions of a mathematical nature. The parents shrug and say "Kids!". Then, one day, after a lot of intense geometric games, the children vanish. An alien intelligence has stealthily taught them to transfer themselves into another dimension. It was brilliant; it played on all the old fears of demonic possession and Pied Pipers, and all the

new fears of science. I think of that story whenever I see headlines like yesterday's "Age of the Zombies" or "Hard Drug Computers".

I actually told it to Monday's conference at the National Children's Bureau, which spawned the headlines. It was not meant to be all doom: there were IT lecturers and computer-literate schoolchildren as well as psychologists. But reporters prefer doom. Elizabeth Stutz is widely quoted, saying that children get "indoctrinated" by electronic games and give up leapfrog. Professor Elizabeth

Newson, who has battled steadily against the availability of sadistic videos for home viewing, made only one comment on violent games, but it was seized upon, at the expense of her real exposé of what the film industry's perverted violence does to children's minds. So we end up with the usual refrain of "Help! Computers are stealing my baby's soul!"

Which is unconstructive. Even Dr Mark Griffiths, speaking on the dangers

of excess, said that only 7 per cent of 12 to 16-year-olds play for long periods; and only 1 per cent of those seem "addicted". That is not an epidemic: it is a sign that a few children have problems. If others spend too long at the screen, it is because we do not, as a society, bother to provide them with safe places and green spaces in which to play. The most sophisticated child will lark around healthily outdoors, given a chance. It is just that we don't give them a

chance. We are preoccupied, or selfish, or idle, and leave them with the screen.

This is not an underclass problem. Educated, affluent parents can show astonishing negligence over new technology. Ask what their child likes and they say vaguely "Computer games". Ask which, and they look affronted. If you inquired about eating habits or GCSE choices, you would get detailed answers. But they think all games are the same: it is as if you asked who their babysitter was, and they said "Oh... some guy". Or as if they

confused *Sesame Street* with *Elm Street*.

If electronic games are disgusting, we should not let children have them. There are others on sale: some harmless slapstick violence, some brilliantly strategic, some downright educational. The industry is showing vague signs of policing itself with age labels, but it would buck up its ideas if parents and teachers took an interest, compared notes, complained, and generally exerted market forces. These games cost up to sixty quid each: children don't spend that sort of money unaided.

Just don't blame the computer. It is only a thing, like a brick or an iron bar. Whether you build a church with it, or hit someone over the head, is up to you. Ethics don't change, only objects do.



Ruth Gledhill sits patiently in front of her computer terminal in London waiting for a reply to her electronic mail sent to Dr Billy Graham in San Juan, Puerto Rico

Waiting for God's word

The evangelist Dr Billy Graham wants a high-tech crusade, so Ruth Gledhill contacted him, eventually, through the Internet

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God," said the prophet Isaiah. I could think of no better way to test the truth of this prophecy than by way of an interview on the information superhighway through the senate desert of cyberspace with the world's top evangelist, Dr Billy Graham.

As someone who functioned adequately until now with T-line shorthand, and had failed miserably to master even a miniature tape recorder, the challenge of an online interview seemed somewhat apocalyptic.

Dr Graham is planning to use satellite technology to spread his message around the world. The "Global Mission", which begins tomorrow, is intended to reach eight million people at 2,200 locations in 175 countries from a stadium in San Juan, Puerto Rico. There will be 300 hours of satellite transmissions over three days. In Britain, it can be seen at the Shaftesbury Theatre in London and 90 other venues nationwide.

The organisers have had tough negotiations with satellite owners because so many channels are being used to transmit the O.J. Simpson trial from Los Angeles. Press material, updates and video news releases on the Mission can also be accessed through CompuServe on the Christian Interactive Network by keying in "Go CIN".

The campaign slogan is: "Billy Graham. Direct, free & at a dish near you."

Dr Graham, 76, was enthusiastic about a "chat" over the Internet. My own Tandy mobile laptop computer and modem, which has functioned for two years sending copy to *The Times*, belongs to the dark, hot-metal age of computer technology. I had no choice but to take the tube down to the UK's first cybercafé, Café Cyberia off Tottenham Court Road, London, where access to the Internet comes for little more than the price of a telephone call and a bottle of ink.

Dr Graham himself admits that "technology alone will never accomplish God's work, and unless the spirit of God works in the hearts and minds of people, then it is all in vain".

In the post-postmodern atmosphere of the cybercafé, New Age music seeps out of hidden speakers and Internet users sit with tea and cakes around sea-green amoeba-shaped tables waiting patiently for a computer to become vacant. To these people, the initials BG are more likely to mean Bill Gates of Microsoft than Billy Graham.

The plan was to talk to Dr Graham over IRC, Internet Relay Chat, where messages can be



Billy Graham: slow to answer

replayed across the globe, either in private or on a public line which others can then log into and join in. It became clear in microseconds that Dr Graham was too busy in the real world with press conferences, speeches and public meetings to sit down for a sustained "chat". We had to abandon IRC and settle for straight, old-fashioned electronic mail.

The terrible thing about e-mail is that, like its postal equivalent, an interviewee can respond as, when and how they wish. The information superhighway could at last be the means by which millions of people worldwide escape the tyranny of journalists on the telephone.

One day went by, then two, then three. Still no response in my CompuServe mailbox @ Café Cyberia. I was beginning to feel

spaced out, so Daniel Barnbach, the cybercafé's assistant manager, took me surfing on the World Wide Web, where the world's believers from all religious communities are indulging their love of argument and speculation.

Accessing the Internet Catalog at Carnegie Mellon University in America, we were quickly into the Billy Graham Archives at Wheaton College, Illinois. Still no word from Dr Graham himself, so we visited the Anglican web site, rated among the top five religious resources on the Internet. We looked into Shamanism, Wicca and Zoroastrianism. It seemed appropriate, while waiting for an answer.

At last, Dr Graham answered. He finds the response to high-technology missions better than to more standard ones. "This frankly surprised us, and we have concluded that perhaps it is a demonstration of the impact of the large screen," he says. "I believe it also may be because many more people are aware of a major effort like this, and are praying as a result."

Asked how he could counter the basic incredulity of Christianity in a rational, computer-led world, he answers: "G. K. Chesterton once

said that the problem is not that Christianity has been tried and found wanting, but that it has been found difficult and not tried at all."

Dr Graham believes the central issues of our time are moral and political. He is concerned with racism and ethnic violence. "Evil will continue as long as the world exists, for it comes from inside us, from our hearts that are in rebellion against God."

"People are beginning to realise that science has its limits, for it has not been able to answer the deepest questions of human existence — questions such as: Who am I? Where did I come from? Why am I here? What happens when I die? What is the meaning of life? Science has not solved social and personal problems, he says. "We are seeing an upsurge of interest in the spiritual, and one reason is because people are realising that there must be more to life. That is why I point people to the message of the Bible."

His goal is to use the latest technology to preach the Gospel to as many people as possible. "Never in my life have I seen people so hungry for answers to life's deepest questions," he says. "If Jesus were on Earth today, I have no doubt He would take advantage of these new technologies to spread His message, and so should we."

● Delphi Internet (0171-757 7080).
● For free tickets for Billy Graham call 01255 673122.

What is the matter with Stephen Fry?

Dr Thomas Stuttaford, a close friend of the Fry family for thirty years, suggests reasons for the actor's self-imposed exile

Stephen Fry normally bounds through life like an amiable Labrador — too big for his surroundings, too active for the slothful people around him and too anxious to please. He has learnt as many an over-exuberant dog does that the world is not the kindly place it appears to be: he has been kicked by those from whom he might have expected succour.

When the physique is damaged others share the sufferer's problems: chairs will be produced, taxis ordered, the best corner seats in the restaurant will be reserved so that the patient's words may be heard the more clearly. Conversely when the psyche has received a battering, condemnation for the troubles this

When the physique is damaged others share the sufferer's problems: chairs will be produced, taxis ordered, the best corner seats in the restaurant will be reserved so that the patient's words may be heard the more clearly. Conversely when the psyche has received a battering, condemnation for the troubles this

Since childhood it has been obvious that Fry has a cyclothymic temperament. In the dictionary cyclothymia is defined as a temperament characterised by cyclic alterations of mood between elation and depression. Carried to extremes, the condition is described as a bipolar affective disorder, medical jargon for having a mood which tends to swing, quite beyond the control of the patient, from extremes of excitement and hyperactivity — when the patient is the life and soul of every party and may undertake a huge workload — to self-deprecation, lack of self-esteem and to the feelings of unworthiness and hopelessness which characterise the depressive state.

The very work accepted when somebody is elated — Fry worked for television, radio, and cinema as well as doing his normal writing

and being a very conscientious Rector of Dundee University — tends to deepen the depression when the mood alters and thereafter heightens the likelihood of breakdown. Patients who suffer from cyclothymia or bipolar affective disorder can no more control their mood swing than Canute could order the tides.

This temperament, which has advantages as well as disadvantages, is in most cases genetically determined and is as inevitable as hair colour or height. When not running out of control, some degree of hypermania, or elation, is a quality which creates some of the best salesmen, politicians and leaders, but carried to extremes it will cause mayhem.

The disability is biochemical and related to serotonin levels in the central nervous system which can be varied with appropriate treatment.

Treatment is not confined to use of drugs. Cognitive therapy is also useful. In this patients are taught about the deficiencies in their mental armoury and how to accommodate them. Possibly the best results are obtained by a combination of cognitive therapy and medication. If Fry is wise he will, as indeed it seems he probably has done, steal away to a quiet secluded spot where he can go into retreat, review his life and its stresses, understand what precipitated his crisis and, while there, swallow whatever pills he has been prescribed. He will soon come out from the shadows to amuse us all again, for such is his ability and personality that it is unthinkable that they could be extinguished by the emergence of the aberrant side of his psyche and a difficult few months.

He will have to seek help in controlling not only his depressive but his elated moods, when the world seems to be a stage which he can dominate at will and when tiredness and sleep seem to be optional extras. While he is re-establishing an even keel he does not need to talk of behaving in a most cowardly fashion, or to offer exhortations that "people" should not waste their sympathy on his squalid little story. Stephen Fry has suffered just as if he had appendicitis or pneumonia, and in those cases no one would be disparaging.



Stephen Fry with his father



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The individual messages from London Fashion Week add up to a stunning total



Fashion
IAIN R. WEBB

British fashion exists in extremes — from the deliberately anarchic street attire of the nation's teenage rebels (ripped jeans and pierced noses), to the comforting security blanket of establishment classics (trenchcoats and twinsets). These may appear poles apart, but each has its own place in British style.

Over last weekend, London Fashion Week presented 29 shows featuring the autumn/winter collections of 37 diverse designers, each with his or her own definite look and understanding of what fashion means. At first glance it may seem idiotic to try to compare the work of Jean Muir and Alexander McQueen, or discuss Margaret Howell and Hussein Chalayan in the same breath, but the banner of British fashion nevertheless unites them — as do several overriding themes.

If you want to know what British designers want you to wear next winter, it is a relatively straightforward shopping list: something fitted and sharply tailored; something pale blue, red or grey; something shiny; a pencil-slim skirt (below the knee); long, wide trousers or short, narrow ones; some fake fur; some lace; and lots and lots of black. It really looks that simple.

But of course, it's not. Each designer has an individual message (in fashion the ego knows no bounds), and the catwalk show gives them the



NICHOLAS KNIGHTLY: wardrobe of languid jersey layers

opportunity to make a "statement". Edina Ronay is a girl who just wants fashion to be fun — her 1950s-inspired collection was colourful and jolly — while Sonja Nuttall called her collection *Triste*. Despite her talent as a tailor, that was the overall effect of the endless variations on a black shroud or a ballet tutu. Ally Capellino added a touch of glamour, while Helen Storey continued to rethink the definition.

Ben de Lisi, presenting a fashion show for the first time, offered these thoughts in his programme: "There are those who mean to break new

ground and discover hidden treasures... I simply want to show you what I do best." He showed beautifully cut, understated silhouettes in gorgeous fabrics. A midnight blue shirt, worn with matching long, full skirt (belted) opened the show, and instantly set the tone. Equally straightforward clothes were pieced together in exquisite etched satins, beaded chiffon and fine velvet. Just what de Lisi does best. Neat and complete. As were the shows of Bella Freud and Margaret Howell — both remained faithful to their ideals of womanhood, producing



BELLA FREUD: a tailor-made collection — pretty, witty and always sexy. Photographs by CHRIS MOORE/ANDREW THOMAS

skillfully edited collections.

Completely the opposite was Alexander McQueen's rambling rage entitled *The Highland Rape*. McQueen's radical style has seen him dubbed a rising star (and rightly so), but this latest collection — all torn-lace dresses and ugly sex 'n' violence imagery — sees him fall from favour.

Several of the younger designers disappointed. Hussein Chalayan appears stuck in a groove, his future-world fashions almost as monotonous as the sleep-and-booster soundtrack which accompanied them: Pearse Fionda's monochromatic movie-queen wardrobe, although elegant, repeated one idea over and over; and Owen Gaster, who would have us believe that simply having an idea — that come next winter cyborg mutants will walk into Harvey Nichols and buy his Perspex, rubber and nylon outfits off-the-peg — is enough, wrong, the clever part is taking that idea and turning it into clothes somebody (anybody) covets.

The more established names appear to have been inspired by the youngsters snapping at their heels. Roland Klein's collection was a winner with its mix of elegant silhouettes and of-the-moment fabrication — stamped leather and PVC jackets were sharply tailored, fake fur and satin adding yet more gloss. Nicole Farhi and Jean Muir both carved a new silhouette — sleek and sexy.

Betty Jackson just gets better and better. Her latest collection was altogether modern. Called *Plain Luxury*, it built an entire wardrobe around two ideas, that clothes should be easy and seductive. This was certainly true of the oversized, Lurex-knit sweaters thrown over a pair of satin pedal-pusher pants, crepe lace dress and jacket and the bouclé knitted coat and matching dress. Jackson used a minimal palette — black, grey, orange, red and pink — to colour and co-ordinate this desirable mix 'n' match collection.

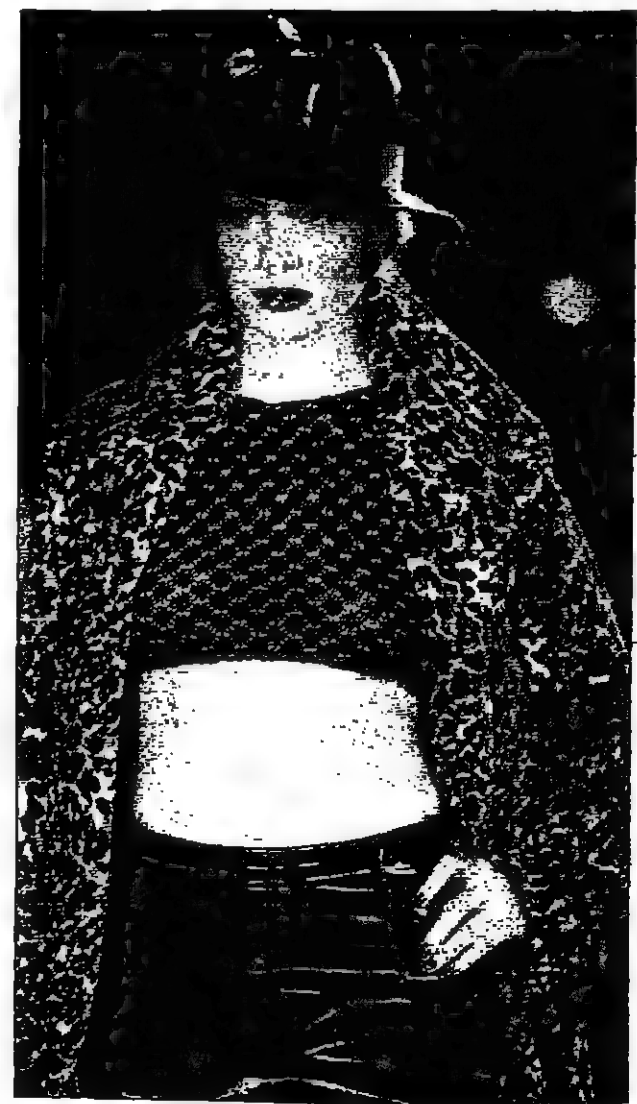
Among the newer names, Copperwheat Blundell are still



ALLY CAPELLINO: a glittering surprise

making great clothes which are superbly slick, while Nicholas Knightly showed yet more of his effortlessly sleek separates. However, by far the most fabulous collection of all was designed by the relative newcomers, Clements Ribeiro. Suzanne Clements and Inacio Ribeiro managed to make their statement with the minimum fuss. An expertly

edited collection which combined 1960s Parisian chic with an up-to-date attitude. Little suits with tailored, buttoned-style jackets, snug-fit sweaters and pleated, knee-length skirts, tie-belt coats, belted shift dresses coloured with chalky pastels looking luxurious yet pretty, classic camel and dynamic black and red. Simply the best... of its kind.



HELEN STOREY: experimenting with glamour

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BETTY JACKSON: understated glamour in shades of black

ESSENTIAL ACCESSORIES

● **EARRINGS**, so long out of favour with the fashion cognoscenti, are now important items on the list of accessories needed to look fashionably groomed. They made a return at London Fashion Week this season as the fashion press sported tiny diamond or pearl studs. Other essentials: a classic, Queen Mum-style handbag reworked in industrial nylon or in miniature was seen everywhere. Ditto Jackie O sunglasses, or wraparound visors, here doubling as hairdo restrainers for silent wearers struggling to stay upright. (Towards the end of the hectic schedule, the hazardous heels were left in the closet in favour of demure but practical ballerina slippers.) Darkest plum is the new shade for fingernails but, true to yesterday's grunge fashion, most were chipped.

● **THE HEALTH** Education Authority's campaign "Put Smoking Out of Fashion" fell short on impact over London Fashion Week. Although cigarettes are becoming a rare prop on the catwalk and in photographs, in real life it seems those in the business need them more than fresh

air to survive. In the coach used to ferry fashion editors and photographers between the shows and in the very busy press office, the air was thick with smoke. The only escape was inside the show tents, where smoking was banned as a fire risk.

● **FOUR** British designers chose to use Butler & Wilson's jewellery. Typing-pool chic at Roland Klein was set off to great effect with sparkly earrings and diamanté framework belts. Looking like Fagin's haul on Sonja Nuttall's sombre urchins were large gold rings set with coloured stones. The 1940s Art Deco-inspired range helped to create the right period for Reynold Pearce and Andrew Fionda's haute glamour collection.

● **THE ULTIMATE** accessory at a fashion show has to be a star or two. On the London catwalks were supermodel Niki Taylor looking fantastic after recently giving birth to twins, English aristocrat Honor Fraser, the mock-demonic Laura de Palma, and model legend Jerry Hall.

RACHEL COLLINS



ROLAND KLEIN: fake fur and diamanté add even more gloss

ROLAND KLEIN: shiny silhouettes strike just the right note



MARGARET HOWELL: a clever mix of effortless classics

LONDON LOVES (FAKE) FUR

● **THE ANTI-FUR** lobbyist Peta (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) this month added Claudia Schiffer to the list of models — Nadja Auerman, Kate Moss, Cindy Crawford included — who have joined its year-old "Rather Go Naked Than Wear Fur" campaign. Fake fur, on the other hand, has made a recent comeback with designers using realistic imitations — from

leopard to chinchilla — to convey an air of luxury. At the London shows, New Generation duo Lo & Cabon featured stoles, as did Bella Freud and Nicholas Knightly who, like Betty Jackson, used deep piles for short full coats. Some visitors noted this convincing but fake trend and dug out vintage fur scarves... and missed the point!

RACHEL COLLINS

ELIZABETH ARDEN

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Alan Coren



■ First it's useless junk, then a memory — and then buried treasure

The last thing I need is another memento mori. Indeed, I have the occasional started dawn awakening, these days, when a reminder that I am still *vivus* would not come amiss, hang on, is that a ceiling or a lid, so I have decided to look on the bright side of last Sunday's discovery and regard it as a signal not of my impermanence, which was my first reaction, but of my perpetuity.

As a matter of fact, last Sunday's discovery has two bright sides, now that I have had a go at it with the vinegar. One side shows the Emperor of India, and the other Britannia — a brace of identities currently so ideologically explosive that it set the gooseflesh crackling to note, once the vinegar had done its deoxydising trick, that the date of their joint minting was only 1944. Strange, how a mere half-century can render the old penny so politically unacceptable that if it happened to fall from your pocket in a roomful of 1995 right-on undergrads, they would probably fear you limb from limb before you had the chance to shriek that you had just dug it up in your garden and were carrying it ironically.

But that's history for you, Strata. When I first started turning over flower beds, in about 1960, there was little in them but bits of blue-and-white china. I never inquired why this should be, preferring to assume that at some critical point in the late-Victorian vogue for this particular crockery — could have been Krakatoa erupting, could have been a meteorite shower, could have been a rash of Anarchist bombings, could have been a spontaneous nationwide outburst of domestic mayhem brought on by too much booze or too little sex — it all got smashed. And I used to reflect, as I dug, that that was how future archaeologists might be disposed to characterise the 1880s: an era of flying soup tureens and chamber pots, and citizens running through suburban gardens with their hands over their heads.

I don't come across blue-and-white shards any more; no doubt they have all sunk, thanks to the peristaltic nudges of Time's ever-rolling subsoil, to a level below the depth of spades, to await the excited speculations of future Carters and Schlemmings. What I get now is headless tin grenadiers, Zambuk lids, rusted clockwork, old fountain pens, Dinky wheels, two-pin plugs, bent Meccano girders, Boys' Brigade belt-buckles, ribbed brown bottles embossed with the signature of Dr J Collis Browne, cap-gun barrels, flat-trodden kazooks, Bakelite knobs, and, as of late weekend, superannuated coinage — all the pitiful detritus, in short, of my own infancy.

I do not know how the penny got into my border, any more than I know how the Victorian postcards used to. Whether, new-minted, it was blown there by one of Crickwood's three doodlebugs, or, outdated, tossed irritably away when decriminalisation came in, or merely prey to some lesser cataclysm between, I cannot guess. I know only that it moved, fiscally, from life to death, and thence to history. The d was dead, long live the p.

A friend came over for a drink last Sunday morning, after I had finished gardening, and brought his ten-year-old son with him. The boy, poking about as boys will, spotted the penny decaying in its saucer, and wanted to know things. So I told him that, once upon a time, there had been twelve of them to a shilling. He is a smart kid, but had great difficulty in taking this on board. He thought I was winding him up. When I went on to explain that a pound once contained not only 20 such shillings, but also 960 farthings with little wrens on, he fell about. He is, as I say, smart. He wanted to know how our calculators used to cope. They must have been enormous.

After the pair of them had gone, I looked at the penny and realised that it had not passed into history alone. It had taken me with it. This was my stratum. That was my era. Clockwork, Bakelite, Platinums, and more resonant yet than all of these, a big copper Emperor of India who could poke into a slot machine which would swap him for a bar of Fruit-and-Nut.

Museum stuff, now. Highly collectible. Much prized. Archaeological stuff, next. Not ephemera at all. Life after death.



LONDON FASHION WEEK

Socialism, Tory-style

Whatever the Conservatives say, the public sector goes marching on, never shrinking below its historic level

I advise not a peep from John Major on Labour's Clause Four, not a whisper, not a murmur. If he can draft a better mission statement, fine. If not, keep quiet.

Tony Blair's achievement as he neared the abandonment of Clause Four this week is not synthetic or cosmetic. It is a real political milestone. When as an undergraduate I was persuaded to buy a Labour Party card, the clause on the front seemed all wrong. The image was Winter Palace 1917, not Swinging Sixties Britain. Gaiskell tried to get rid of it, so did Neil Kinnock. When Mr Blair took over, the old hag was still in the attic. Tony Benn and Dennis Skinner went up and fed her plates of gruel. But she would scream over the rooftops and upset the neighbours at elections. She had to go.

She has gone. The replacement is ungrammatical waffle. But Mr Blair understands that waffle can have meaning if it supplants meaning. He has crafted a significant negative statement. The Labour Party is no longer in favour of the common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange. This may not take us forward, but at least it stops us going back. Mr Blair felt abolition was important, and that made it important. He wanted to do something hard, and something right. He has done both. Let nobody sneer.

The Tories have no obvious response. They have no Clause Four to retract. The early dictionary definition of Conservatism (in the *Oxford English Dictionary* in 1891) was "a party the characteristic principle of which is the maintenance of institutions political and ecclesiastical". Michael Oakeshott said that Conservatism was about protecting "a diversity of interests and a diffusion of power". Both definitions look sick today.

Mr Major's own mission statement, at the start of the 1992 manifesto, defines redrafting: "We must raise our sights high... making our country respected and secure, and helping you achieve a better, safer and more prosperous future... Go forward not back; go for the best, knowing that Britain can be the best and do it best. My belief is clear. Only the best is good enough for Britain." This was surely a nadir of political literacy.

Mr Blair's new formula may be waffle but it is not without nuance. "The enterprise of the market and the rigour of competition joined with the forces of partnership and co-operation to produce the wealth the nation needs" is an

appalling mouthful, but these are real factors underpinning a modern political economy. He refers to a public sector in which natural monopolies are "either owned by the public or accountable to them". This is not a party programme, merely a statement of aims and objectives, but it passes muster. The Tories have none.

One reason is that the Conservative Party has yet to define its attitude to the principal day-to-day duty of politics, the custodianship of the public sector. This is curious, since Conservatives have been guardians of the public sector for 16 years. They can no longer pretend they

have merely inherited some bastard child of post-war socialism. The baby is now emphatically theirs, yet they convey nothing but distaste for it.

Head Lady Thatcher and John Major abandoned the public sector, or even drastically reduced its size, that

might have constituted a sustainable "mission". They said they would do so, but failed. My favourite Treasury statistic is not the size of public spending as such, but the percentage of domestic product taken by government in taxes and other receipts. This is what the tabloids would call the annual "state grab". It was 40 per cent when Edward Heath took office in 1970. It was 40 per cent when he handed over to Harold Wilson in 1974. It was 40 per cent in Margaret Thatcher's first year in 1980. It was 40 per cent when she lost power in 1990. The Treasury red book predicts that in the year 2000 it will still be 40 per cent.

This enforced marriage between government and taxpayer survives every vicissitude — and every government. Yet the Tories are ashamed of it. Margaret Thatcher expended much of her political energy as Prime Minister in waging war on the public sector. What she could not privatise, she abused, chastised and centralised. John Major and Kenneth Clarke have continued this tra-

dition. They have not cut the National Health Service or education or the social services, they have merely conveyed an impression that they would love to do so.

I believe that there has been only one serious political argument in Britain since 1979. It has not been between socialist and Conservative. It has been between the Conservative Governments and the Tory right-wing. The Right demanded the dismantling of the welfare state. If electors wanted a safety-net for the poor, it should be in the form of negative income tax. If the State needed to take money from the public and

return it as a social service, it should do so through vouchers. Government should not run schools and hospitals. It should not run unemployment insurance. It should not be in the regional subsidy game.

The Right lost this argument. Margaret Thatcher was sure that the public would not wear it. Yet she haied herself for winning. She did not boast her triumph. There is no surge of confidence in Mr Major's manifesto in the power of government to do good — only a pledge to do less. Britain has a Tory health service, a Tory education service, Tory roads, Tory prisons, Tory houses, Tory social benefits.

I remember gulping in 1980 when Mrs Thatcher took public spending through the £100 billion ceiling (Lord Home in 1964 had got by on £11 billion). I gulped again when, shortly before her fall, it went through £200 billion. This year I assume somebody in the Treasury will break open the champagne as it races past £300 billion. This is almost half the annual income of Britain, seized from the public on the basis of goodness knows what rationale.

Eric Hobsbawm once taunted the Conservatives by pointing out that the only rationale for a welfare state had to be a socialist one. Why else take 40 per cent of people's money, if not to redistribute it in the direction of the poor, the deprived and underprivileged?

Simon Jenkins

When sex ceases to be private

Dr John Habgood

on the harm of sexual witch-hunts

One key insight in the House of Bishops' study *Issues in Human Sexuality* reads: "The greater the degree of personal intimacy, the greater should be the degree of personal commitment." The rationale lies in the nature of intimacy itself. To be intimate is to expose one's inwardness. It is a form of exposure which renders the person making it vulnerable, and it therefore requires trust. Intimacy without vulnerability is spurious. Vulnerability without trust is potentially self-destructive. Trust without commitment is only half-formed and transient.

If these entailments are accepted, it should be possible to develop a sexual ethic that safeguards central Christian beliefs about personal relationships, while also appealing to common sense.

Intimate relationships do not have to be sexual. The widespread assumption that they do is a measure of society's current obsession with sex, an obsession which impoverishes relationships by riding roughshod over all gradations and subtleties. The passage from conversational intimacy to the beginnings of physical intimacy, for instance, may be lengthy and may stop at any point. There need to be markers to signify the stages in a developing relationship as part of a growing sense of trust. To telescope them all into one, to rush into sexual encounters, is to depersonalise sex. It reveals a lack of respect in the treatment of another person as a mere sexual object. It severs the connection between intimacy and commitment by dispensing with commitment altogether and reducing intimacy to gratification.

Kissing, to take a fairly trivial example, has for many people been devoted to a form of initial greeting, even among strangers. This may seem delightfully friendly, but if it is more than a formal peck it can start eroding the deeper meaning of a first tentative kiss meant in earnest. Modesty may seem a very old-fashioned virtue among those who describe themselves as "liberated" from convention. Paradoxically, though, the lack of it can diminish social freedom by forcing awareness of sexuality before any other kind of intimacy has had time to grow. The common presumption that all physical intimacy must lead to penetrative sex is unjust to those who want to enjoy some warmth of companionship, but wish to draw a line.

To hope for the establishment of some more subtle codes of behaviour in such matters may seem forlorn in face of the huge contrary pressures. But it is urgently necessary if we are to escape from our present confusions, often caricatured as a choice between unending moralism and sex on demand. The concept of intimacy is a good starting point, because it can focus the spiritual, psychological, social and physical elements in personal relationships, and discourage their separation.

Many of the issues that bedevil sensible discussion of sexual morality in our culture arise as a result of precisely such separations. It is not for nothing that Christians constantly stress the connection between wholeness and holiness. To be a mature, integrated and morally whole person is to have body, mind and spirit working together. Intimate relationships touch what we are in our deepest selves. Their inwardness signals their essentially private nature. Violations of privacy, particularly by and through the media, can not only hurt individuals, but can create an atmosphere in which intimacy becomes harder, because it is of the nature of such violations to ignore the nuances and to sharpen the polarisation of moralism and licence.

A mature understanding of varying, appropriate degrees of intimacy can be as helpful in setting homosexual guidelines as for heterosexual ones. Life without markers, far from liberating people, reduces the social space in which they feel free to make mutually understood decisions. But if there is general recognition of such markers, lesser degrees of intimacy can flourish at a level of commitment which is genuinely warranted, rather than be precipitately forced.

The author is Archbishop of York.

Tongue twister

JOHN REDWOOD has whipped the Welsh into a fury after refusing to sign a foreword to his department's annual report because it was written in their native tongue. The Welsh Secretary happily signed the English version of his foreword, but refused when it came to the translation, on the ground that he cannot understand it.

His explanation on Friday, when the report came out, did little to appease Welsh-speakers in the Principality. "My fear is that if I signed a Welsh letter which had a spelling error or a typographical error, or a more serious error which somebody didn't spot, then it's my name on the bottom," he said. "And that, in the wrong hands, could cause mischief."

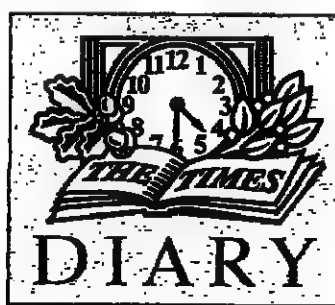
Redwood has, indeed, been consistent. Since becoming Welsh Secretary, he has refused to sign anything in Welsh.

Labour's spokesman for Welsh affairs, Wyn Griffiths, says he should bestow more trust on the translators he employs: "I think he must have a phobia about the Welsh language. Since he wrote the foreword himself and it was trans-

lated into Welsh by his own department, he cannot claim he did not know what he was signing. It is totally bizarre." Sensibly, Griffiths has dashed off a stiff note to the Welsh Office and the Welsh Language Board, suggesting Welsh lessons at Westminster.

■ Ned Sherrin was delighted at the *Foyles* luncheon flier for his book, *The Oxford Dictionary of*

BLUE IS THE COLOUR
FOOTBALL IS THE GAME



Humorous Quotations. "I was very pleased to see how large and clear my name is. I have been suffering an identity crisis recently having been mistaken for Clive James, Desmond Wilcox, Alan Coren and Patrick Moore. Someone even called me Ned Sheridan Morley."

Pier pressure

THE SPIRITUAL benefits of a weekend in Brighton were outlined enthusiastically by some of those at a London party yesterday to launch the town's May festival. George Melly, who will be taking part in a discussion about homosexuality in public schools, was reminiscing about past liaisons in the resort. "Brighton has a louche quality. I didn't have dirty weekends exactly,

but I have enjoyed amorous dalliances there," he said wistfully. "It is the place for them, so charming and such a lot to do."

Tough nut

BEFORE Scotland's right wing Craig Joiner faces the English at Twickenham on Saturday he has to tackle economics, maths and chemical engineering. The Calcutta Cup showdown comes at the end of a week of exams for the 20-year-old, a second-year student at Heriot Watt University. "It's important to have a healthy mind and healthy body, but I could have done without this," he admits.

Just daffy

THE CLERGYMAN who hit the headlines after eating daffodils on Mothering Sunday last year is casting around for another flower to chew. The Rev Ian Gooding of Risle and Stanton by Dale in Derby ate daffs with his parishioners last year after reading how Dutch mothers fed their children on tulip-bulb soup during the war. "I thought it appropriate to use flowers to illustrate caring for the family," he explained. Unfortu-

nately, the daffodils made him and many of his congregation ill. "It went rather wrong," he admits. "But I would like to do something similar this year so I am weighing up the available blooms."

Sparks fly

CONTRARY to what one might expect, the arrest of the moustachioed



Do not try this at home

Southampton goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar caused few ripples at Sanderson Electronics plc — which yesterday signed a seven-figure, four-year sponsorship deal with the football club.

"Absolutely delighted. It's good for us," says marketing manager Sean Hampsey. "Southampton is on everyone's lips at the moment. We couldn't have timed it better."

● At least one Irish priest is counting the cost of Cheltenham, even though he prayed yesterday on Radio 4's Today programme for Ireland's leading hope, Danoli, trained at Tom Foley's establishment in Co. Carlow. Father Edward Dowling had £10 on to win. Divine intervention brought the horse in third.

Begin at home

THE DUCHESS OF BEAUFORT received an honorary Doctorate of Laws for her charity work on Monday. Bristol University broke with tradition, presenting the degree not at the university but in the front room at Badminton House.

"It is the first time that we have awarded a degree in a private home," says Sir John Kingman, the Vice-Chancellor. "It was a very un-



Duchess of the heights

usual ceremony for a very unusual lady." Unusual the 66-year-old duchess certainly is. At the latest tally she was fundraising for 76 charities, an inveterate traveller, she boasts of "bathing in piranha-infested waters" and, despite frail health, still wants to go white-water rafting.

P.H.S



THE HIGH GROUND

From better goalkeeping to better governing

The arrest of the Premier League goalkeepers Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers yesterday morning would have been shocking had it not been preceded by a string of similar events. On Monday, Dennis Wise of Chelsea was bailed after being sentenced to three months in prison for a vicious attack on a taxi driver. Last month, Eric Cantona of Manchester United was charged for assaulting a fan and George Graham, the Arsenal manager, was sacked after an investigation into financial irregularities.

The traditional boast that British football is morally upright in comparison with the game on the Continent can not now be made. Nor can English cricket claim its historic high ground: when the England captain, Michael Atherton, was accused of cheating last year, another totem fell for many fans. The nation's best sportsmen can still be relied upon to reach new heights of athletic excellence; but they cannot be depended upon to provide moral exemplars to the young who so sorely lack them.

The sense that fair play and gentlemanly conduct are in decline is not confined to the sporting world. After the fall of Barings, all the great names of the City are less great. Political corruption and financial scandals come from places much closer to home than Milan or Miami. So great has anxiety grown about sleaze that the Government has appointed an "ethical workshop" under Lord Nolan. In all walks of British life, it is no longer assumed that most people will behave decently most of the time.

Why should this be so? To single out "the decline of the family" or "the decline of organised religion" is simplistic. Civility has many roots and grows in many soils. What has indisputably declined is the sense that our actions should be constrained by codes of behaviour other than the law. In religious terms, we have kept the concept of crime but dispensed with the concept of sin. In sociological terms, we have preserved the criminal justice system but lost sight of the

social values that underpin it. In his far-sighted book, *After Virtue*, the philosopher Alasdair MacIntyre gave warning that this breakdown of moral language marked "the new dark ages which are already upon us". Many will think this grim forecast to be more than ever apposite. For others, such as Amitai Etzioni, the American communitarian thinker who delivered Monday's *Times*/Demos lecture, there are still ways out of our troubles. He argues, for example, that we have forgotten the art of the minor reproach to the child, errant neighbour or anti-social teenager on the streets. He asks if our moral reticence reflects only a legitimate fear of retaliation or a reluctance to make judgments.

"Judgmental" has in too many circumstances become a pejorative word, today. But there is hope too in our current reaction to the scandals that are around us. There is no lack of judgment upon the errands of the football world this morning. Implicit in the shock that people feel when a football player attacks a fan or a politician takes a bribe is the collective will to stop such things from happening again. The Nolan committee would not exist if the electorate did not care deeply about the morality of public life. George Graham would still be Arsenal's manager if the moral respectability of senior figures in sport did not mean so much to the majority of fans.

Matters would not seem so bad if we did not believe that they can still get better. Dr Etzioni has pointed out the extraordinary capacity of human beings to build structures enforcing community and mutual responsibility. In his new book, the Chief Rabbi argues for "the principled rejection of despair" and against the claim that our damaged codes of decency are irreparable. Moral awakening is painful. It is a shock to confront the frailty of those who lead us and the incivility of those who live among us. But the moral high ground need not be for ever abandoned. Nor will it be.

WELCOME TO MUMBAI

India's Hindu nationalists need not scare the money-makers

Alarm bells have rung noisily in India since yesterday. The right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which campaigns on a platform of Hindu nationalism, has won power in Gujarat and Maharashtra — two of the country's most prosperous and industrialised states. In the latter, it has formed a government with the Shiv Sena, a militant Hindu party which quarries for votes in the memory of Shivaji, a 17th-century Maratha leader. The state's government has quickly found a populist reply. Bombay, the capital, will now be called Mumbai; the dowager will at last be dressed in Indian garb.

Fears have been expressed already for the rights and security of Bombay's Muslim citizens. Religious violence has been a disconcerting fact of life in recent years in Bombay and in neighbouring Gujarat — and Muslims have invariably suffered a higher toll in the bloodshed than have the region's Hindus. The BJP cannot rightly be blamed for all of this: its leaders have been more moderate in their political message than their liberal detractors are prepared to concede. Yet the Shiv Sena, now the BJP's ally, has always been at the forefront of Bombay's communal unrest.

The Congress party of the Prime Minister Narasimha Rao would do well to put to national use its experience of regional electoral defeat. If it is tempting to account the election results as a victory for Hindu nationalism, it is equally tempting to treat them as a defeat for an incompetent and venal local Congress administration. Mr Rao's political management has been poor, and no more so than in his perceived unwillingness to sweep away corruption.

Mr Rao is beset, also, with internal party problems. He faces a challenge from the powerful and obstreperous Left within the Congress, led by the disagreeable Arjun

Singh. This group, which has scorned consistently the economic liberalisation launched by Mr Rao's Government, harks back wistfully to a mythical Golden Age of state control and Soviet-style five-year plans. A danger has now arisen that Mr Rao will dilute his Government's commitment to fiscal discipline in an attempt to placate dissidents within his party — as well as to win wider support from the electorate.

The defeat in both states of the ruling Congress party was far from unexpected: markets in India, and investors abroad, will have prepared themselves mentally for a change of administration. At first sight, however, investors would appear to have little to fear. The BJP has always declared its commitment to a free market, as well as its hostility to dirigiste state control.

The BJP's commitment to India's secular constitution, however, is far from clear. Although there have been encouraging changes in semantic nuance in recent statements by its leadership in Delhi — that "Hindu nationalism need not be inimical to India's constitution", for example — the party still has much to prove in this regard. A Hindu nationalist administration cannot afford to forget how difficult wealth creation would be in a society which lacked stability.

If the new state governments were to confine themselves to innocuous exercises in pride — such as the renaming of Bombay, the rumbustious celebration of Hindu religious festivals, and the erection of new statues — there would be little cause for concern. But if their administration acquires a character that is belligerent towards religious minorities, the situation would be graver by far. It does not matter if Bombay becomes Mumbai, as long as the city remains a civilised place where money can be made.

LONDON FASHION SENSE

A week for fun, profit and the older model

As international buyers and editors fly home from London Fashion Week, they will be mulling memories not of standing outside tents in the drizzle waiting to see impossible clothes, but of efficient shows packed with imaginative designers. Events this week have proved that London is no joke in the fashion world. Far more foreign buyers have come than ever before, thanks partly to the promotional efforts and energies of the British Fashion Council but also to the quality of the clothes themselves.

London will never rival Paris for *chic* or Milan for *eleganza*. Its home industry is too small: any glance down a city street here shows how dowdily dressed are the British compared with their French or Italian counterparts. Britons cannot be persuaded en masse to spend large sums of money on their appearance. If they do buy expensive clothes, these are more likely to be classics, designed to last many years than outfits which are *le dernier cri*. This may be a hangover from the Protestant ethic. Or it may be a reflection of the way in which we express our personalities. British spending power tends to be channelled into homes and holidays rather than *haute couture*. So native designers have to sell their wares overseas instead.

Some of the established ones prefer to

show their clothes in Paris than in London. Others leave Britain's world-renowned fashion colleges to work for international designers abroad. As with much of this country's industry, British people come up with ideas which are then turned into production by foreign companies.

This week there were the usual outrageous clothes designed mainly to catch the eye of picture editors in newspapers and TV. Few women want to bare their buttocks in public, even if they have seen it done on the catwalks. But there were proper clothes too, designed to be worn by working women, and, for once, modelled by adults. To see Jerry Hall, a 38-year-old mother of three, sashaying sensationally down the catwalk in an Edina Ronay evening gown was one of the delights of the week.

If anyone can afford designer clothes, after all, it is women in their 30s and 40s. They are much more likely to be enticed by someone of their own age looking terrific than by an 18-year-old waif who still seems pre-pubescent. The fashion industry has learnt some lessons from the disasters of "grunge", which depressed almost every female, however fashion-conscious, over the age of 21. British women will be more loyal to fashion if fashion is more accommodating to British women.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

OutRage! and the 'outing' of Church homosexuals

From Mr Paul Barnes

Sir, The behaviour of OutRage! towards the Bishop of London (reports and leading article, March 14) deserves condemnation both as a matter of principle and for real practical reasons.

Many of us who work for gay equality have as a guiding premise the principle that an individual's personal life is their own. No one — not any individual, not the media, nor the State — has the right to pry into a person's private life. Compromising that principle, as outing does, makes us as bad as the bigots who use our sexuality to attack us.

But more damaging is the practical effect of this outing. Progress can only be made as society becomes more tolerant and gay people become more confident. This is increasingly happening and homophobia, although still prevalent, is being abated.

This action has reduced tolerance and undermined confidence for very little gain. This high-profile action has been widely condemned in the media. It has portrayed gay people to be militants, undeserving of support. Although this is totally unrepresentative of the vast majority of gay people, we have all been slurged by this action. Like any militant group, OutRage! may revel in this bad press. But for most homosexuals it will lead to real practical difficulties.

Just as importantly, it has reduced the confidence of those productively working for gay equality. Supportive Members of Parliament, for example, are starting to distance themselves from any campaigns. Many are concerned about being accused by association. They feel it safer not to get involved through concern that OutRage! may turn unfounded attention on them. After this incident, who can blame them?

Yours etc.
PAUL BARNES
(Chairman, Torch (Tory Campaign for Homosexual Equality)).
36a Mildmay Grove, N1.
March 14.

From Mr Nicholas Beale

Sir, Mr Peter Tatchell's letter to the Bishop of London speaks of a man suffering from "charges which were almost certainly trumped up by local gangsters who were blackmailing him".

I accept that no legal offence has been committed by Mr Tatchell in his letter, but, at a moral level, pots and kettles irresistibly spring to mind.

Yours sincerely,
N. C. L. BEALE
3 Berkeley Square, W1.
March 14.

From the Reverend John Draper

Sir, The Bishop of London will be admired for his courage and dignity.

I hope that the next set of people to be "outed" are the trust officials at Lambeth Palace and Church House who, according to OutRage!, are supplying confidential information relating to individuals.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DRAPER,
Saint Francis House,
Riders Lane,
Leigh Park, Havant, Hampshire.
March 14.

From Mr Robert Sandall

Sir, I absolutely agree with the comment in your leading article that a person's sexuality is no business of anyone's but their own.

This group of people who are purporting to know and instruct us on the best way to lead our lives are indeed an outrage.

Therefore it is time to call upon this group — the Church — to abandon the deceit and hypocrisy that has afflicted them for so long.

This would have the effect of consigning OutRage! to the dustbin, where it belongs.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT SANDALL,
The Coach House,
99 Hazlebourne Road, SW12.
March 14.

Prospects for students in legal practice training

From Mr Roger K. Jones

Sir, The Law Society shares Mr Barry Shaw's concern (letter, March 9) for students who complete the legal practice course (LPC) but are unable to find a training contract in a solicitor's office, and next autumn we will examine the feasibility of a moratorium on increasing the number of LPC places. Even if this proves feasible, however, we cannot break our obligations to existing LPC providers who have invested heavily in setting up good-quality courses.

Mr Shaw's charge that the society is relying on market forces to control the number of LPC places is unfair. We expect institutions to take an utterly realistic view of the position in the light of any exceptional circumstances and to be honest with potential LPC students as to their prospects.

It is wrong to be too pessimistic, however. Many students unable to obtain a training contract for the time being have been able to get work in solicitors' offices, and we have just secured the approval of the Lord Chancellor for a change in training regulations which will increase our discretion to allow such experience to count towards the training contract.

We are also working with the College of Law and careers advisers to promote a greater interest amongst recruiters outside the legal profession in students who have passed the LPC.

Yours truly,
ROGER JONES
(Chairman, Training Committee,
The Law Society),
Ipsley Court,
Redditch, Worcestershire.
March 10.

From Mr R. G. Holbrook

Sir, No one suggests limiting places at drama school only to those with Equity cards, or places on teacher-training courses to those who have already obtained teaching posts. Yet Mr Shaw suggests limiting the number of places on the legal practice course to those who have already obtained training contracts with solicitors' firms. If this happened, the profession would be seriously impoverished.

Law students from traditional universities, and those from white and middle-class backgrounds, find it much easier to get training contracts than other students and therefore many deserving and some outstanding candidates would be denied access to the profession. However sophisticated the selection techniques developed by law firms — and few have the resources to go much beyond the traditional interview — this bias is likely to persist.

Some students who may have shone academically do not excel when faced with the demands of a course which tests their practical skills. The College of Law, which is the country's largest provider of the legal practice course, fails between a tenth and a fifth of its students every year. If Mr Shaw's suggestion were implemented, the training institutions would become virtual rubber-stamps, passing all comers. The legal profession would not be protected from entrants who have been found by professional trainers to be practically incompetent.

Rather than selecting before the final year of initial training, law firms would be wiser to select candidates on the basis of their performance at the

end of the practical course, giving preference to those who are awarded distinctions and commendations.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. HOLBROOK
(Chairman, Board of Management),
The College of Law,
Brabourne Manor,
St Catherine's, Guildford, Surrey.
March 10.

From Mrs Mary Severin

Sir, Mr Shaw omits to mention that without a two-year training contract, usually at a firm of solicitors, a trainee solicitor cannot qualify as a solicitor. When I first embarked on a law degree at Reading University four years ago we were led to believe that, although the situation was difficult for trainees, provided we obtained good academic qualifications we could expect to obtain a trainee position.

Now, in the middle of the final part of that academic training at a legal practice course at Oxford, with fees at £5,000, I find myself fighting with a steady 500 other trainees for each vacancy. I am now in my sixth year of full-time study; many have studied for longer.

The Law Society has no power to create trainee positions and it does very little indeed to help trainees find positions. Despite this, it creates courses for more trainees — who are, incidentally, poorly trained for any other profession. Where is the logic in this?

Yours sincerely,
MARY SEVERIN,
Riverside,
Reading Road, Chelsey, Oxfordshire.

Broadcasting talent

From Mr David Edwards

Sir, The Controller of BBC Radio 1 (letter, March 10) justifies his latest attempt to halt the ratings slide by saying Chris Evans is "one of the most sought-after talents in UK broadcasting". Sought after by whom? The February 13-19 figures show Evans's Channel 4 programme, *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush*, bottom of *The Times* TV Top 20's BBC2/C4 list with 3.1 million viewers (Media and Marketing, March 8).

Yours faithfully,
D. EDWARDS,
16 Rannoch Court,
Adelaide Road, Surbiton, Surrey.

Deaths in Karachi

From the High Commissioner for Pakistan

Sir, The Government and the people of Pakistan deplore the present unrest in Karachi, which has led to the deaths of a number of people (leading article, March 9).

Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, immediately condemned the killings of the two American consular officials (report, March 9). Every effort will be made to apprehend the perpetrators of this crime. To this end, we shall be working closely with the United States.

Let there be any doubt about our determination to root out terrorism.

Rate for the job

From Colonel C. R. W. Norman (ret'd)

Sir, One is always hearing about the rate for the job (letters, March 9).

It is my belief that in all these mammoth industries there would be found at least half a dozen young, eager and competent men or women willing and able to do the top job at half the salary.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
RICHARD NORMAN,
Milton Mill,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Homeless in London

From Ms Sarah Gorton

Sir, John Gummer's rebuttal (letter, March 10) of the charges of social injustice made by the Provost of Southwark Cathedral fails to convince.

The Government's strategy for dealing with homelessness in London is complicated: one initiative for people sleeping rough, with an added comment for the harshest winter months, another for the homeless mentally ill, all for different time periods.

The rough sleepers initiative extolled by Mr Gummer is due to end in 1996; and the promise made under the homeless mentally ill initiative, extended in 1992, to deliver 750 units of permanent supported accommodation

has been broken. As a result, 60 per cent of those contacted for that initiative have remained homeless, and there is a puzzling silence over the final report evaluating the initiative.

Perhaps the Government does not like to hear the obvious: that homelessness initiatives require permanent housing. Until we have a coordinated strategy on housing and community care, including local authorities and voluntary agencies and not just confined to central London, people will continue to turn up at the cathedral with nowhere else to go.

Yours sincerely,
SARAH GORTON,
Joint Council on Mental Health and Homelessness,
15-19 Broadway, Stratford, E15.

Fishing dispute with Canada

From Mr Eric Clements

Sir, Congratulations on the calm and sensible comments in your leading article, "Principles at sea" (March 14), on the arrest of a Spanish fishing vessel by the Royal Canadian Navy. There certainly is a huge gap in world-wide conservation. Perhaps the next advance in the Law of the Sea will be establishing the right of warships of all nations to inspect fishing vessels in international waters for gear which violates internationally agreed standards.

Spain and Portugal are among the very few countries in Europe in which there exists an obscene delight in eating immature fish, which fetches a high price, and it is therefore chiefly their fishermen who need fear such a step. Iceland acted unilaterally in establishing a 200-mile exclusive fishing zone, and was followed shortly by the rest of the world. It would seem that the Canadians are similarly setting an example.

Since it is inconceivable, except to Euro-maniacs, that the Royal Navy should confront its war-time and Commonwealth comrades, the sooner the Foreign Office recognises that it exists to serve the interests of the British people rather than, as Austin Mitchell, MP, has commented, the interests of foreigners, the better.

Yours etc.
ERIC CLEMENTS,
60 Harrington Street,
Cleethorpes, Humberside.

From Mr John F. H. Ashworth

Sir, Canada has made every attempt to resolve the fisheries problem off the Grand Banks by diplomatic means, but the action of the EU and EU fishing vessels, flouting sensible conservation measures, has resulted in confrontation.

The EU has a history of destroying fishing grounds around the world. Now the Canadians have made a stand. Well done, Canada.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ASHWORTH
(Spokesman, Save Britain's Fish Campaign),
Kirkby Mills Industrial Estate,
Kirkbymoorside, North Yorkshire.

From Mr W. S. Affleck

Sir, That we should find ourselves, perforce, siding with Spain against Canada in a fishing dispute raises a much more substantial question about our EU membership than any amount of premature speculation on a single currency.

Yours sincerely,
W. S. AFFLECK,
Barley Hill, Watledge,
Nailsworth, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

What the blazers!

From Mr H. M. Stewart

Sir, What confusion Mr Nicholas Boys-Smith has caused (Diary, February 21; letters, February 24, March 1 and 10), no doubt unwittingly. This may, or may not, be the centenary of the "boating coat", if by that is meant a double-breasted navy-blue jacket with brass buttons; but the "blazer" proper is considerably older, dating certainly from 1852 and quite possibly from 1825 when the Lady Margaret Boat Club of St John's College, Cambridge, was founded.

The first issue of *The Cambridge University Almanack and Register* gives, for the May Races of 1852, the uniform of Lady Margaret Boat Club alone as "a red guernsey or blazer". The red colour gives the origin of the word and the inverted commas show that it was still slang. It took another 20 years for the inverted commas to be dropped and the term to be adopted by other college boat clubs.

In 1956 I investigated, with great assistance from Commander W. E. May, RN, Deputy Director of the National Maritime Museum, the theory, quoted by Mr Guy Thompson in his March 10 letter, linking the blazer to the Royal Navy. Its origin appears to be one of a number of unsigned memoirs published in the *Army and Navy Gazette* in 1890 which said: "In the Blazer in 1845 the ship's company wore blue-and-white striped guernseys, with jacket on Sundays."

But there was nothing special about this uniform compared with other ships in the Royal Navy, while no claim to the term "blazer" was made. And in 1852 First Trinity Boat Club at Cambridge wore a "blue and white striped under-jersey" which was not called a blazer, although the term was known.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant.
H. M. STEWART,
Maresfield, Beech Waye,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Official welcome

From the Reverend Canon George Tolley

Sir, Which country will be courageous and sensible enough to abolish the militaristic symbolism of requiring a visiting head of state, as a first priority, to review a guard of honour? And what, I wonder, could be put in the place of this meaningless, and yet powerfully symbolic, charade?

Yours faithfully,
G. TOLLEY,
74 Furness Avenue,
Dore, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

OBITUARIES

DR BARBARA EVANS

Dr Barbara Evans, pathologist, author and journalist, died on March 5 aged 85. She was born on June 5, 1909.

HAD Barbara Evans been born a few years earlier she might well have been a suffragette, and she would have been a formidable opponent of the Establishment. As it was, she qualified in what was a male-dominated profession, choosing, in pathology, a speciality where women doctors were rare. She confessed that it was not then thought to be ladylike, a fact which was very far from worrying her.

She went on to have a successful career in her chosen profession, and also made a considerable mark as a writer. She did this partly in the columns of *The Sunday Times*, for which she was for a period Medical Correspondent, and through the authorship of several books. These dealt, in the forthright manner characteristic of her, with some of the highly topical subjects of her day; these ranged from the impact on the civilian population of the war in Vietnam to such medical considerations as contraception and the physiology of the older woman.

Barbara Dorothy Fordyce Hay-Cooper qualified at the Royal Free Hospital in 1934. The following year she married Dr Philip Rainsford Evans, who was to become Director of Paediatrics at Guy's Hospital and Physician-Paediatrician to the Queen.

While her husband spent much of the war abroad serving in the RAMC, she was at the burns unit of the Queen Victoria Hospital, East

Grinstead. There she worked with Sir Archibald McIndoe's celebrated team of plastic surgeons in wartime circumstances which saw a radical extension of what plastic surgery might achieve. Barbara Evans did important work in the pathological research which led to taking skin from one part of the body and successfully grafting it to the burnt area, remodelling limbs and giving new faces and new hope to servicemen, particularly RAF aircrew who had been dreadfully burnt in battle.

In the 1950s Barbara Evans sought to stretch herself, as she saw it, and began a new career as a freelance journalist. She became Medical Correspondent of *The Sunday Times*, which was then another male bastion. Nevertheless, she was not daunted. Her deceptively vague and rather patrician manner, combined with her undoubted presence, intimidated one senior executive, a man with the instincts of a bully, so much that he used to hide when she came into the office.

At first she found journalistic writing difficult, even illogical. She argued for example that the "intro" to a news item (the first paragraph which tells the who, what, where and why of the story) was an irrelevant waste of space. But she persevered, and went on to work for a number of publications including *World Medicine*, of which she became Consulting Editor.

She was more comfortable with the book format, despite vigorous arguments with various book editors. In 1979 *Life Change* appeared, a user-friendly book on the men-



pause, her purpose being to give women confidence and dignity by removing the fears and myths surrounding it. She attacked the view that women in menopause were in some way mentally less competent, and argued that post-menopausal women had a good third of their lives to live and were a valuable resource. Typically, she suggested that if indeed there was any loss of libido in the menopause, it was a kind of pseudo-hysteria, as male impotence was a real condition. Her authorial career had been

1984 by *Freedom to Choose: the Life and Work of Dr Helena Wright, Pioneer of Contraception*. Barbara Evans had discovered from a conversation in her local baker's shop that Dr Wright, then 90, was a neighbour of hers. She made the acquaintance of the redoubtable pioneer and thereafter spent many an absorbing afternoon with someone who was very much a kindred spirit, discussing the eye-opening psychosexual therapy practised by Dr Wright.

But these were later works. Her authorial career had been

gun in 1968 with *Caduceus in Saigon*, which was the result of working there for a year in the midst of the Vietnam War. In 1966 her husband had accepted an invitation to lead a team of paediatricians to Saigon, to take responsibility for surgery at Nhi Dong, the only children's hospital in South Vietnam. Barbara Evans went too, her medical training and East Grinstead experience being invaluable.

She returned with deep sympathy for the Vietnamese people and little time for the diplomats and the US military. Yet the book was a primarily graphic, rather than tendentious, account of her experiences.

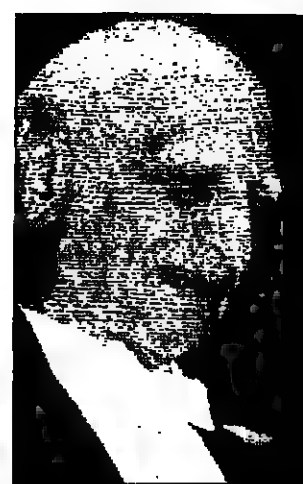
In it, the anger against the cruelties of war are controlled. There is no place for indignation or blame. Instead she dispassionately chronicles the realities: the overcrowded hospitals; the poverty and apathy of the Vietnamese civil population; the seasonal toll of cholera; the fearsome burn injuries often caused as much by exploding paraffin stoves as by the napalm of the US Air Force. It was an account of deep compassion, and of warmth and wit.

Philip and Barbara Evans had a long and loving marriage, which ended with his death in July 1990. She remained in their house in St John's Wood, London, until in 1994 a fall left her confused and with some paralysis. Protesting strongly, she moved to a nursing home where she eventually died after a stroke.

Barbara Evans was a loving person, caustic, funny and always immensely curious. She is survived by three sons and a daughter.

MAX RUDOLF

Max Rudolf, orchestral conductor, died in Philadelphia on March 1 aged 92. He was born in Frankfurt am Main on June 15, 1902.



IN A performing career which spanned just weeks short of seventy years from his debut in Freiburg to his final appearance in Philadelphia, Max Rudolf excelled as an opera conductor on both sides of the Atlantic. He did so particularly with his interpretation of Mozart and Strauss operas at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, where he worked for 13 years. He also became a greatly admired and revered pedagogue at the Curtis Institute, Philadelphia.

A product of the interwar German tradition which produced such musicians as Wilhelm Furtwängler, Herbert von Karajan and Otto Klemperer, Rudolf was a knowledgeable man who gave a great deal of thought to his performances and argued strongly in favour of honouring the composers' original intentions when performing their music. Along with such colleagues as George Szell and Fritz Reiner he introduced European musical ideas to a culture-hungry America.

Born just five years after the death of Brahms, Max Rudolf began his musical studies at the age of seven. In addition to the piano, which he learnt with Eduard Jung, Rudolf took up the cello, organ and trumpet. The very first concert he attended was during the first winter of the First World War, when patriotic feelings were running high and he heard Richard Strauss conduct his *Burleske* with a freshly-conscripted Wilhelm Backhaus at the piano in uniform.

From the age of 12 Rudolf composed a number of chamber works, primarily under the guidance of Bernhard

Seldes at the Hoch Conservatory in Frankfurt, yet it was Seldes's pupil, Paul Hindemith, who inadvertently discouraged Rudolf from pursuing his career: "I could see his talent and knew that mine was not so fine," he said. "I did not want to be another ordinary composer so I began to study scores."

At the age of 21 Max Rudolf made his conducting debut in Freiburg and shortly thereafter appeared at Darmstadt (conducting Johann Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*) where he soon became number two to Karl Böhm. It was here that he first met Rudolf Bing whom he would later spend several years working for in New York. Darmstadt was followed by a six-year spell at the German Theatre in Prague with George Szell, and in 1929 and 1930 he guest-conducted the Berlin Philharmonic.

In 1935, sensing the growing rise of anti-Semitic feeling in Europe, Rudolf and his wife Liese, whom he married in 1927, moved to Gothenburg, Sweden, taking various musical positions before emigrating to Chicago in 1940, where he taught music. Szell brought him to the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, in 1945 (the year before he took Ameri-

can citizenship) where his thorough administrative skills, intellectual mind and musical talents were heavily relied upon by Bing when he arrived as general manager in 1950. Rudolf left the Met in 1958 to become music director of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, taking it on a world tour in 1966 and a European one in 1969.

The following year Rudolf Serkin invited him to reopen the opera department at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia and, although he returned to the Met in 1973, Rudolf was back at the Institute in 1983 retaining an affiliation there for the rest of his life. He was also invited to become Conductor Laureate, later Conductor Emeritus, of the Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia — the pre-eminent chamber orchestra in the city. A widely read scholar, Rudolf contributed numerous articles to journals and magazines. However, it was his book *The Grammar of Conducting*, published in 1950, that became a textbook for many protégés. It was recently translated into Japanese.

In later years he selected his students carefully. "I don't ask to see technique," he said. "That is something you can develop. I am interested in score-reading and in their literary background, languages, broad things. I don't believe you can conduct without knowing languages and without having read widely." His own conducting technique was greatly admired and he became noted for his ability to subdivide his beat without dragging the pulse during performances.

Max Rudolf remained a Philadelphian for the rest of his life, occupying an apartment from which he could see the Academy of Music. He is survived by his wife and their two children.

ALBERTO BURRI

Alberto Burri, Italian painter and collage, died in hospital in Nice on February 13 aged 79. He was born in Umbria on March 12, 1915.



Alberto Burri: *Sacking with Red*, 1954

FORGED from the materials that came to hand in the American prisoner-of-war camp in which he spent the years 1943-45, the art of Alberto Burri expressed a sensitivity lacerated by the experience of total war with a pungency that perhaps does of his contemporaries does. Taking old and torn sacks, charred plywood and scrap metal, in short, the characteristic debris of our time, he created images which were recognised, on their first exhibition in Rome in 1948, as possessing haunting power.

His work prefigured the Junk Art of America. But it is more accurately seen as a forerunner of the superficially similar, but significantly different, Arte Povera of Italy which stresses the innate dignity of the "humble" items which man has rejected in his

headlong rush towards technological progress.

Alberto Burri was born in Città di Castello in the Umbria region north of Perugia. Initially he had no thoughts of being an artist and trained to be a doctor. When Italy entered the Second World War in 1940 he joined the army's medical service

and was sent to North Africa. It was there that he was captured by units of the US Army as the Allies closed in on Axis forces trapped in Tunisia in the summer of 1943.

Burri was sent to a prisoner-of-war camp at Hereford in a remote part of Texas, close to the New Mexico state line. There, though at first expected

by his fellow inmates to devote himself to their medical care, he turned his back on medicine and began to paint. With the philosophical detachment of their race his fellow Italian POWs accepted this; indeed his symbolic rejection of medicine as being a mere panacea to unworthy humanity became a legend throughout the camp.

Nevertheless, it was Burri's experience as an army surgeon, sewing up wounds and handling rough, bloodstained field dressings, that provided the impetus for his work. His first artistic attempts were paintings, loud with the vibrant colours suggested both by the light of North Africa and the unremitting summer suns of Texas. Soon he changed direction, sewing sacks together and splashing them with red paint. Adding rusty metals and charred wood to his repertoire he produced collages powerfully evocative of both the carnage and the material destruction of the battlefield.

Released from his wartime

captivity, he returned to Italy in 1946, settling in Rome where he joined the Origine group of young avant garde artists. Burri was, in fact, never really a "group" man, in spite of his undoubted influence on contemporaries, preferring to carve his own lonely furrow.

His first exhibition was in Rome's Galleria Margherita in 1948. His reputation soon became an international one. He showed at the Venice Biennale of 1952 and in 1960 was awarded the International Critics Prize. His work was also popular in the United States where it spawned Junk Art, and he was represented at the New Decade exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in 1955. In some quarters he attracted criticism, however. In 1959 the Italian Communist Party condemned in parliament one of his burlap paintings, then hanging in a Rome gallery.

His work made a great impact in London where it was first shown at the Hancover Gallery in 1960. In an age which has seen far too much junk dubiously enlisted in the ranks of art, it was universally acknowledged as possessing an arresting dignity and elegance. Its very defiance of established aesthetic conventions seemed to proclaim it as being an art appropriate to the post-Hiroshima age. Characteristic of his work is *Sacking and Red* in the Tate Gallery, London.

Burri was an enthusiastic hunter, pursuing deer and boar in his native Apennines, and an avid soccer fan. He designed the striking poster for "Italia 90" — the official emblem of the 1990 World Cup which was staged in Italy. Burri remained a largely reclusive figure. Although he spent part of the year in Città di Castello and also regularly visited Los Angeles, the birthplace of his wife Minsa, who was a ballerina with the Martha Graham company, he settled on the French Riviera between Nice and Monte Carlo four years ago. His wife survives him; there were no children.

FRANK COSTIN

Frank Costin, aviation and racing car designer, died on February 5 aged 74. He was born on June 8, 1920.



WHEN in the early 1950s the late Colin Chapman, the head of the Lotus Car Company, was anxious to obtain more pace from his current racing car designs by using properly contrived aerodynamic bodywork, he called in Frank Costin, who at the time was employed as an aerodynamicist at the De Havilland Aeroplane Company at Hatfield. Costin duly set about designing the body shell for the Mark VIII Lotus which in 1954 established new performance levels in motor sport and established Costin's reputation among his peers.

He was a man who loved challenges of this sort. Later, when Colin Chapman engineered a new chassis for Tony Vandervell's Vanwall racing car, the bulbous but low-drag body was again the work of Frank Costin and it immediately gave Stirling Moss a vehicle with which Moss was able to win at Silverstone in 1956.

That was the beginning of the elongated nose and high-sided cockpit of the grand prix racing cars of those days, a case of trading frontal area against drag coefficient. It worked well for Vanwall and British motor racing prestige in races at Pescara and Monza, where speeds were relatively high.

Costin was ahead of his time in his ability to put aerodynamic theories into practice and his work was quickly noticed elsewhere in the world of motor sport. The result was that he became responsible for the bodywork of many other specialist motor manufacturers including Lister and TMC. After a chance meeting with Jim Marsh, Frank Costin combined with Marsh in the

construction of the Marcos road-going sports cars, using wood as the main material, bonded with materials used by De Havilland in the building of the racing Comet monoplanes.

Frank Costin was the son of an Army officer who later participated in the exploration of the Amazon and developed an innovative paint process. He grew up in west London where he displayed some prowess both as an athlete and as a singer but turned to aerodynamic engineering for a career.

He joined the General Aircraft Company at Harworth, Middlesex, as a fitter and junior draughtsman when he was 18. Three years later he moved to Portsmouth to join Airspeed, where he helped to design the Hornet military glider. Later he worked for the Supermarine, Percival and Folland companies until 1949 when he returned to Airspeed as an aerodynamic flight test engineer and helped to design

the Ambassador airliner. In 1953 he moved to De Havilland to help to organise flight test programmes for the Vampire and Venom jet fighters and it was while he was there that Colin Chapman persuaded him to put his aerodynamic expertise to work on motor racing cars. Costin's brother Michael was already employed by Lotus.

The success for Vanwall resulted in Costin being retained as a consultant to Vandervell Products, where he devised a fully streamlined car body with partial enclosure of the road wheels for a Vanwall racing car destined for the high-speed Rheims Grand Prix.

Costin never abandoned his interest in aviation and, when in his seventies, completed the design of an ultralight glider and made the first flight in it himself.

Twice married, he had two sons by his first marriage and two by his second. He is careful to make it clear that for him the southern Republic has ceased to be. In reporting the flight of Mr. Steyn from the Presidency on Monday evening he refers to that ambitious politician as the "late President of the Orange Free State." The phrase is deliberately chosen, for it is repeated in describing Mr. Fraser as a "member of the late Executive Government" and, again, in regard to the Secretary to "the late Government"...

The despatch makes no mention of any opposition to our entry. The announcement made at Pretoria, about the time the British flag was being quietly hoisted over Mr. Steyn's late official residence, that the Federals were contesting the way mile by mile "fighting with excellent results and inflicting tremendous damage" on our troops appears to have been imaginative. "The enemy," Lord Roberts observes, "have withdrawn." "The inhabitants," as distinguished from the enemy, "gave the troops a cordial welcome."

ON THIS DAY
March 15 1900

BLOEMFONTEIN FALLS

The British flag now flies over the Presidency at Bloemfontein. Though the capture of the Free State capital has been foreseen since the surrender of Cronje's force at Paardeberg, the news that it has actually occurred will send a thrill of satisfaction through the Empire. Strategically the event may be of no greater importance than the seizure of the railway at any other convenient point in the neighbourhood, but its moral and political effects must be considerable and may be of the highest significance. The capital of one of the two allied Republics is in our hands, and the Orange Free State has ceased to exist as a political entity. That is the answer to the fortune of war, to which Mr. Steyn so wantonly appealed, has given to the demand that we should acknowledge the "incontestable independence" of the Boer Republics as "sovereign International States." The Free State, with which we had no quarrel and even no discussion, forfeited the rights for

So widely had the fall of the city been expected that when it was established, this article appeared ahead of such details as the advance of the Guards Brigade who marched from 3pm the previous day to 1pm the day of the capture with a rest of only 25 hours.

which it was originally indebted to the generosity of the British Crown, when it declared war upon us under the infatuated guidance of Mr. Steyn, and Lord Roberts and his army are now enforcing the forfeiture. He is now the ruler in Her Majesty's name of Bloemfontein and of a large part of the southern territories of the Republic. Lord Roberts sees the danger that

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Builders are imitating the elegance of one of Britain's foremost architects. Christine Webb reports

Lutyens comes back in style

One of the oddest questions ever put to the Royal Institute of British Architects came from an author writing a sequel to Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows* who asked: "What would Toad have to pay Lutyens to design a new country house?"

For the record, the answer was 5 per cent of the building costs. And how apt an architect Lutyens would be for Toad, with his smart, checked waistcoat, bright, shiny motorcar, and liking for being a mode.

Grahame wrote his children's fantasy in 1908, when Sir Edwin Lutyens was in his prime, aged 39. He had, by then, designed Lindisfarne Castle, Northumberland, and was about to be commissioned to design the even grander Castle Drogo, Devon, both of which now belong to the National Trust. But before his death in 1944 he had become well known for his country houses.

'He always gave his buildings an instant aged look'

Fifty years on, today's builders are looking towards Lutyens. Several developers are suddenly being inspired by the English architect and his colleagues from the Arts and Crafts Movement. While many builders have harked back to Victorian, Regency or Georgian ideas, this is a trend so new that the ink has barely dried on the Lutyensesque drawings.

Charles Church, of Camberley, Surrey, for example, has commissioned work on 14 such houses at Longwater Green, Finchampstead, Berkshire, and Crosby Homes, of Altrincham, Cheshire, has five sites where large detached houses, inspired by Lutyens, are being built. Berkeley Homes has recently started work on 160 houses at Woodcote Park, Loughton, Essex, with styles derived from Lutyens, the Arts and Crafts Movement and garden suburb architecture.

A new book on the Arts and Crafts Movement, by Peter Davey, is due for publication by Phaidon in May, and an exhibition of architectural drawings by Lutyens opens at the Royal Institute of British Architects' Heinz Gallery, Portman Square, central London, on April 27.

Margaret Richardson, of the Sir John Soane's Museum, Lincoln's Inn Fields, central London, who is organising the exhibition and has written an accompanying book, admires Lutyens's ability to design a house that is beautiful from all sides.

"Each house was specifically designed for its plot," she says. "Lutyens gave buildings an instant aged look because the garden could be built at the same time as the house, typically with a secret garden, usually designed by his partner Gertrude Jekyll. He used second-hand bricks and tiles and lime-washed oak to age it."

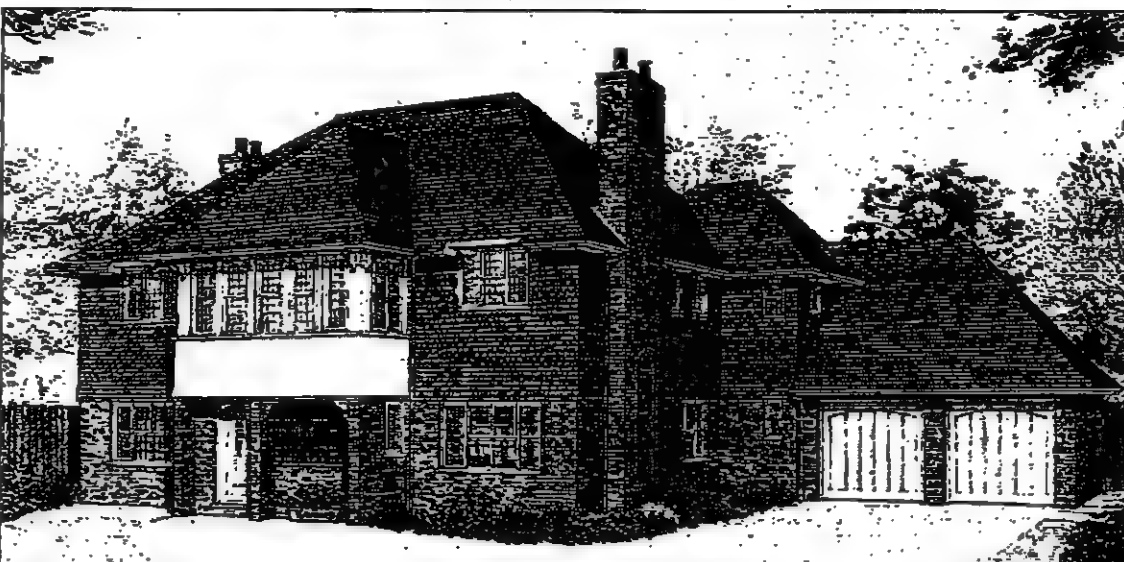
"He always used the best quality materials, and these were expensive houses which became status symbols. He loved creating little features for children, like a window so that children could peek into a hallway. He thought nurseries should be L-shaped so that children could hide from nannies, and on the facade of a building he might put a window for an owl high in a gable."

But Mrs Richardson dislikes modern housebuilding efforts. "I think that what is being produced is a pastiche. It is sad they will get planning permission. Lutyens probably would not get planning permission today. He was an extraordinary architect who took care with detail and was interested in the local planning of houses. I would like to see housebuilders being more imaginative."

Housebuyers seem to disagree. Crosby Homes has had encouraging interest in its new designs and has



The Dutch House, South Holmwood, Surrey was designed by Lutyens in 1897, and is on sale for £390,000



Charles Church has commissioned Lutyens-style houses at Finchampstead, Berkshire, on sale from £325,000

already sold one, at Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire, which was advertised for £365,000. A similar house is now being built in the village, and two more substantial houses are going up at The Somerfords, Hale, Cheshire, priced at about £500,000.

Stephen Price, Crosby's senior planner, says: "Lutyens is a favourite of mine, and because of the scale of our properties, we can reflect features that Lutyens used in his architecture: big windows and roof detail, with gables and heavy eaves."

"Other Lutyens touches are the tall chimneys twisted at 45 degrees to the house, large feature bays, and semi-circular arches above the entrance door. It is early days, but this is an evolving style that we are continuing to use where appropriate."

Berkeley Homes is selling 14 houses, which have some Lutyens-style touches, at Great Woodcote Park, Loughton, Essex, for £140,000 to £420,000; nine have been reserved since the January launch.

Charles Church has yet to start sales at its Longwater Green, Finchampstead, development, where prices start at £325,000. Peter Hamilton, chief of design, says: "In these houses, we are trying to emulate the Arts and Crafts Movement, with large expanses of roof, detailed chimneys, large areas of window broken up by timber detailing and leaded light work, as well as decorative eaves and gables."

For those who prefer the real thing, there are original Lutyens-designed homes on the market, including The

Dutch House at South Holmwood, near Dorking, Surrey, for sale through London agent John D. Wood's Mayfair office at £390,000. This six-bedroom house is "Y-shaped and pure Lutyens, with arched brick fireplaces in its three reception rooms. At Woking, Surrey, estate agent Curdachs is advertising a three-bedroom portion of Fishers Hill House, designed by Lutyens in 1901, at £180,000.

Alternatively, why not build a "new Lutyens"? Some of the sketches at the Heinz exhibition are of projects not yet built, many of which have not been on view before. Mrs Richardson already knows of a boathouse built from unused Lutyens drawings.

Sketches by Edwin Lutyens, published by Academy Editions, £19.95.

Don't suffer in silence

Susan Harris on compensation for new road and rail schemes

Homeowners whose lives are blighted by new road and rail schemes could be missing out on compensation. While this is usually paid for land that is compulsorily purchased for the schemes, those who live close to proposed new routes are often unaware that they can receive money for "hardship" and "diminution in property value".

The property surveyor Drewatt Neate says its agricultural division at Donington Priory, Newbury, Berkshire, has acted for many claimants who, although not losing any of their land, will still suffer significantly from a major highway scheme.

The firm advises property owners first to hire a surveyor whose fees are paid only if the claim is successful. Not many surveyors will take on a case that has little or no chance of success.

Then, if the claim is to be based on an increase in noise, owners should hire professional firms to take proper acoustic readings of the environment — for example, birdsong, traffic, trains, aeroplanes. Readings should be made before the scheme gets under way and then after the works are finished. The Department of Transport takes its own readings along the proposed route, from which it works out which owners qualify for compensation for secondary glazing, and so on.

"There is a cut-off point for compensation based on the number of decibels," says Rhodri Thomas, formerly with Drewatt Neate. "At the end of the day, it is your readings against the district values."

Mr Thomas also advises prospective claimants to keep a diary of events — especially, for example,

when bulldozers or other plant and machinery are in action — and to log any blocked access to fields, paths, and so on, especially in the case of farmers. "But it is difficult to put a price on people's hardship," he says.

The most common claims are for falls in value and hardship due to the use of plant machinery, building disturbance, dust, vibrations and additional fumes.

Alan Corning of Andrews and Robertson, whose Camberwell office is close to the proposed Channel Tunnel fast-link rail route, has received many inquiries from action groups about such hardship claims due to increased usage of the existing and updated rail track. Because the tracks have been modified, there are now specific grounds for claims for "diminution in value" of property.

More recently, Andrews and Robertson has been consulted about modified rail track in southeast London. Some houses in Croxted Road on the edge of the Dulwich College estate are now only ten feet from the track and suffer from increased vibration as a result.

Mr Corning also recently acted for the owner of a fish and chip shop who lost his forecourt, had to alter the step into the shop and suffered increased noise as a result of a road being widened. But the increased decibel level measured after the works were completed was not high enough to warrant any compensation, either for the reduced value of his property or for essential soundproofing. The owner did, however, receive a small sum for the loss of his forecourt and his surveyor's fees were paid in full.

SURREY

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THE TIMES
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Queen's Bench Division

Law Report March 15 1995

Court of Appeal

Public interest grounds necessary Court judges lawfulness of decision

Regina v Cambridge District Health Authority, Ex parte B
Before Mr Justice Laws
[Judgment March 10]

Where a public body enjoyed a discretion whose exercise might infringe such rights as the right to life, it was not to be permitted to exercise that discretion unless it could show substantial objective justification on public interest grounds.

Mr Justice Laws held in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing an application by B, by her father as next friend, for certiorari against the Cambridge District Health Authority which decided on February 22 to refuse to allocate public funds for further medical treatment of B, a girl aged ten. An application for an order of mandamus was refused.

In January 1993 B, a girl aged 10, suffered a relapse of acute myeloid leukaemia. She had previously undergone two courses of chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant, and the doctors who had treated her considered a third course of chemotherapy followed by a second transplant would not be in her best interests. B's father, however, found a doctor who was willing to offer further chemotherapy and, if that proved successful, a further transplant. As a bed was unavailable in the NHS the treatment would have had to be carried out privately.

The chances of a complete remission following chemotherapy were put at 10 to 20 per cent, at a cost of £15,000, while those for the transplant, costing £60,000, were put in the same region.

Mr Bruce McIntyre for B; Mr Nigel Pitt for the authority.

MR JUSTICE LAWS said that it was not the court's function to make medical judgments as not only did it not have the competence to do so but it did not generally decide the merits of administrative decisions since to do so would usurp the role of the decision-maker. The court had to make such findings of fact as were necessary to enable it to determine whether there had been an error of law in the decision-making process.

In his Lordship's judgment, looking at the whole of the evidence there was a small but significant prospect of overall success for B. If the funds were made available for the treatment to be carried out she would enjoy a worthwhile chance of life. It might

be very modest but to anyone confronting the prospect of extinction such a chance of longer survival had to be unimaginably precious.

It was common ground that the respondents had a discretion as to how to fulfil their statutory duties to provide medical services to B. Counsel agreed that such discretion was circumscribed by the Wednesbury rule of reasonableness (1948) 1 KB 223.

From the outset, however, his Lordship entertained the greatest doubt whether the decisive touchstone for the legality of the respondents' decision was the crude Wednesbury bludgeon. The fundamental right to life was engaged in the present case.

His Lordship considered the dicta of Lord Bridge of Harwich in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Bugdayev* (1987) AC 514, 531 and *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Brind* (1991) 1 AC 696, 748-749.

The dictum in the former could not be read as demonstrating the establishment of some new ground for intervention by way of judicial review but it pointed the way to a developing feature of domestic jurisprudence relating to fundamental rights which should be regarded as having a secure home in the common law.

That principle was that certain rights, broadly those occupying a central place in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms 1953 (Cmd No 8949) and obviously including the right to life, were not to be perceived merely as moral or political aspirations nor as enjoying a legal status only upon the international plane of the Convention obligations.

Rather they were to be vindicated as sharing with other principles the substance of English common law. That reasoning did not promote the incorporation of the European Convention into English law but it could be deployed by judges not as a statutory text but as persuasive legal authority to resolve outstanding uncertainties in common law.

The first two questions his Lordship had to decide were whether the respondents had taken a decision which interfered with the applicant's right to life and, if they had, whether they had offered a substantial public interest justification for doing so.

The respondents contended that

they had done no positive act to violate the applicant's right to life: all they had done was to arrive at a decision about the use of public funds. His Lordship did not consider that in relation to the putative infringement of a fundamental right there was, as regarded the obligations of a public body, a difference in principle between act and omission. In public law cases the decision-maker was answerable to the court whether the decision was in negative or affirmative form.

The decision in the present case, to the knowledge of the decision-maker, materially affected the applicant's chances of life and his Lordship held that the applicant's right to life was assaulted by it. Accordingly, the decision could only be justified on substantial public interest grounds.

The first of the reasons put forward for the decision was that the proposed treatment would not be in B's best interests because, inter alia, the suffering involved. In his Lordship's view, the expertise of the doctors was rightly deployed in relation to two questions: (i) what chances of success might be expected from the treatment and (ii) what were the objective disadvantages of the treatment? There was a third question upon which the doctors did not possess an authoritative voice: given proper advice as to the first two issues was it in the best interests of the patient to undergo treatment or decline it?

That was a personal question which the patient, if he was of full age and capacity, would decide in light of medical advice. A child aged 10 could not for herself make an informed decision but it should be for her parents to take that decision for her.

It was plain that the careful consideration of the case by the doctor making the decision as to funding took into account only medical opinions put before him; he had had no regard to the father's views as to B's best interests. He supposed wrongly that the child's best interests engaged only a medical question.

In those circumstances the first reason put forward for the respondent's decision could not amount to a substantial justification of depriving B of her chance of life. In his Lordship's judgment, however, the conclusion did not depend only on the jurisprudence concerning fundamental rights. The ordinary Wednesbury principle produced

the result that the respondents had failed to have regard to relevant considerations, namely B's family's views.

The respondents' second justification for their decision was that funding the treatment would be an ineffective use of resources because, inter alia, the referral budget was finite and the needs of other present and future patients had to be borne in mind.

His Lordship said that merely to point to the fact that resources were finite told one nothing about the wisdom or the legality of a decision. There was no evidence before the court as to the respondents' budget. His Lordship accepted, as *In re J (Minor) (Child in care: Medical treatment)* (1992) 3 WLR 507 enjoined, that the court should not make orders with consequences for the use of health service funds in ignorance of the knock-on effect on other patients.

Where, however, the question was whether the life of a girl aged 10 might be saved by however slim chance the responsible authority had to do more than toll the bell of the respondents. They had to explain the priorities that had led them to decline to fund the treatment. They had not adequately done so here.

The respondents failed upon the conventional Wednesbury principle to have regard to a material factor and his Lordship also inclined to accept the submission by B that the decision failed to pay any attention to an important feature of the funding namely that by the very definition of B's problem the respondents could only be asked in the first place to provide £15,000 required for the proposed chemotherapy.

For the reasons set out, the respondents' decision not to allocate funds for B's treatment had to be quashed. An order for mandamus would only be appropriate if it were demonstrated that the respondents' only lawful course of action was to fund the treatment: his Lordship was not persuaded that that was so.

If the respondents now carried out their task properly, his Lordship could not say that they were bound to fund the treatment. The right course was to issue an order of certiorari to quash the respondents' decision and the decision had to be re-taken in the light of his Lordship's judgment.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for Kersays, Ipswich; Mills & Reeve, Cambridge.

Regina v Cambridge District Health Authority, Ex parte B
Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Sir Stephen Brown, President and Lord Justice Simon Brown
[Judgment March 10]

A decision by a health authority not to fund specific treatment for a child suffering from a life-threatening illness on the grounds that the proposed treatment, described as experimental, would not be to the child's best interests and that the expenditure would not be an effective use of its limited resources, was not unlawful. Accordingly the court could not intervene by way of judicial review.

The Court of Appeal so held when granting leave to appeal and allowing the appeal by Cambridge District Health Authority from Mr Justice Laws' (The Times March 15) judgment, on application of B, a girl aged 10, by her father acting as her next friend, had quashed the authority's decision not to fund any further treatment for her by way of chemotherapy and a second bone marrow transplant and had required the authority to reconsider its decision.

The judge had refused B's application for an order of mandamus to direct the authority to fund such treatment and had refused both parties leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal. B's application for leave to cross-appeal was dismissed by the Court of Appeal.

B had contracted non-Hodgkins lymphoma with common acute lymphoblastic leukaemia at the age of five. Despite initially successful treatment in 1993 she developed acute myeloid leukaemia.

After further chemotherapy and an allogeneic bone marrow transplant the disease went into remission but a relapse occurred in January 1995. Doctors who had treated her gave her six to eight weeks to live and said that they could not treat her further.

Her father applied to the authority for funding for such treatment and obtained other medical opinion to the effect that such treatment could be undertaken, as a two-stage process, with the chances of complete remission following further chemotherapy, estimated at 10 to 20 per cent and at a cost of £15,000, and with the same estimated chances at a cost of £60,000 applying to a second transplant, which would be per-

formed if stage one were completed successfully.

The authority, exercising its responsibility for commissioning health services and for deciding whether to fund referrals to provide units with which it did not have contracts, expressed itself to have taken into account the advice and directions of the Department of Health with regard to the funding of treatments which had not been proven to be of benefit and declined the father's application.

Mr Nigel Pitt for the authority; Mr Bruce McIntyre for B.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, after referring in detail to the facts and the affidavits in material, said that the case involved the life of a young patient that dominated all considerations of all aspects of the matter.

Our society was one which put a very high value on human life so that a decision affecting a human life was of the utmost seriousness.

Courts were not arbiters as to the merits of cases of the present kind. Were they to express opinions on the likelihood of the effectiveness of treatment or the merits of medical judgments they would be straying far from their own sphere.

They had one function: to rule on the lawfulness of the decision, and they had to confine themselves strictly to that.

His Lordship considered the four specific criticisms made by the judge of the authority's decision. That the relevant director of the authority, as the decision-maker, had wrongly failed to have regard to the patient's wishes as expressed by her family and especially by her father.

Nowhere did one see expressed in the factors leading to the decision consideration of those wishes. The judge had said that they had not been taken into consideration and that the decision was therefore flawed.

His Lordship differed. The judge's criticism failed to recognise the realities of the situation. When the matter was first presented to the authority it was on B's behalf as a case calling for the authority's cooperation and funding.

The director was as vividly aware as he possibly could be that the family were urgently wishing the authority to procure funding for the treatment. It was an inescapable fact that he was under considerable pressure, perfectly

legitimately but obviously, by the family, and thus referred to his policy of not speaking to or corresponding directly with patients or their families about extra-contractual referrals.

He responded to the pressure and therefore found the decision so agonising. To complain that he did not in terms have regard to the family's wishes was to smother one's eyes to the reality of the situation confronting him.

2 That the director had wrongly used the word "experimental" to describe the proposed treatment. Both the judge and Mr McIntyre had said that that was neither fair nor accurate given the estimates of success and the opinion of the doctor prepared to undertake it.

However, the treatment did not have a well tried track record of success. It was at the frontier of medical science. It did not carry weight to describe that decision as flawed by the use of that word.

3 That the decision could not be justified on the basis that funding the treatment would be an ineffective use of limited resources.

His Lordship referred to the judge's criticism that, beyond the statement that resources were not limitless, there was no evidence about the authority's budget, save only such as consisted in "grave and well rounded generalities," and that in a case such as the present it was required, but had failed adequately, to explain the priorities that had led it to decline to fund the treatment.

His Lordship had no doubt that in a perfect world any treatment sought would be provided no matter how much it cost when a life was potentially at stake. But it would be shutting our eyes to the real world if the court were to proceed on the basis that we lived in such a world.

It was common knowledge that health authorities were pressed to make ends meet; that they could not provide the payment for nurses, the treatment, the equipment, the research or the buildings that they would like.

His Lordship had no doubt that judgments had to be made as to how a limited budget could best be allocated for the maximum advantage of the maximum number of patients. That was not a judgment for the court.

His Lordship rejected Mr McIntyre's submissions in support of the judge's criticism that the lack of evidence made it impossible to know whether the authority's de-

cision was unreasonable or unlawful as being in breach of its statutory duty.

No real evidence was needed to satisfy the court that the authority did not have unlimited resources to purchase and provide all that was needed.

It was totally unrealistic to require the authority to come to court with its accounts to demonstrate that payment for patient B would mean that patient C would have to go without treatment. No authority could proceed in that way.

4 That the authority wrongly treated the sum required as £75,000, when the first tranche was £15,000 and a two, not one, stage process was involved. His Lordship disagreed.

Of course it was true that if the first stage was unsuccessful then £15,000 was the maximum sum involved. But it would not be reasonable for the authority to embark on expenditure on that basis. Obviously if stage one were successful, the process would have to go on.

The inescapable decision was whether to embark on the process at all. Having weighed up all the factors and taken advice the authority thought it was not right to do so.

His Lordship concluded, with regret that it was impossible to fault that process of thinking. He would allow the appeal.

THE PRESIDENT, agreeing, said that it was impossible to exceed its powers or acted unreasonably in the legal sense of the word. The powers of the Court of Appeal were not such that it could substitute its own decision for that of the authority making it.

Lord Justice Simon Brown agreed with both judgments.

Solicitors: Mills & Reeve, Cambridge; Sharpe Pritchard, for Kersays, Ipswich.

Corrections

In *R v Black* (The Times March 1) any inference that the previous convictions in 1963 and 1968 had been introduced by the prosecution for a ruling on admissibility would be wrong. The behaviour there described was part of the court's reasoning.In *Peirson v Secnav Marine Ltd* (The Times March 9) Mr Martin Ward appeared with Mr Bitu Bhalla for Secnav.Nelson Bakewell
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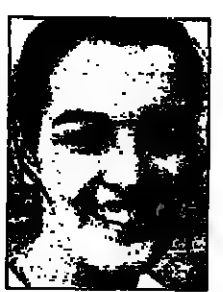
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ARTS 39-41
Why dance needs a firmer foothold in London



SPORT 42-48
The champion who proved her critics wrong

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY MARCH 15 1995

Interest rate plea after sales dive

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

HIGH STREET sales slumped last month, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday as it gave a warning against any new rise in interest rates that might damage consumer confidence still further.

The Government will today announce official retail sales figures, along with the latest unemployment and job statistics. City economists accept that consumer demand in the high street remains sluggish, but are forecasting a small rise in sales volumes in the official retail figures.

The CBI, of which Howard Davies is Director-General, yesterday published its latest distributive trends survey, which showed a fall in the volume of sales in the high street. The drop was the biggest since August 1992.

High street retailers had expected business to pick up considerably after January's CBI figures, which saw sales volumes broadly flat at a balance - those reporting a rise in sales set against those recording a decline - of 2 per cent of companies surveyed reporting a drop overall. But retailers' expectations that this figure would rise proved to be wide of the mark, with a balance of minus 11 per cent of retailers saying sales volumes fell in the year to February.

CBI leaders yesterday attempted to play down the gloomy figures, trying to insist that sales volumes "fell only slightly", and even that they were "neutral". However, at a press conference later, they admitted that the position in the high street was "not very encouraging".

Alastair Eperon, the new chairman of the CBI's distributive trends survey panel, said that the underlying three-month sales trend had been pointing to a slowing in annual sales growth, and as such the "latest" fall was not a surprise.

The fact that the increase that had been expected in retail sales was not fulfilled last month is typical of the uneven trading conditions have experienced over the past year.

Many individual high street retailers have been experiencing great difficulties in recent



Davies: sales fall

months, with Rumbelows announcing the closure of its stores, Athena going into liquidation, and Rymans and Dillons being put up for sale.

CBI leaders maintained, however, that there was no need for an "apocalyptic" response, insisting that some high street sectors were still doing well, even though others were performing poorly.

The CBI's survey of 15,000 outlets in retailing, wholesaling and the motor trades showed the largest year-on-year increases in sales volumes were in chemists and confectioners, with furniture and carpet retailers showing a sharp drop in sales at the greatest rate of decline since the CBI began the survey in 1983. Grocers also saw sales volumes fall in February for the first time since the start of the CBI survey.

Retailers, which expect sales to continue falling this month, though at a lower rate overall, continued to cut jobs. But the growth in part-time work that has been a feature of the retail sector abruptly reversed in February, with a balance of minus 3 per cent reporting a fall.

Full-time employment in retailing has fallen continuously since May 1990, according to the CBI. Admitting that consumer confidence remained "fragile", the CBI said there was "no need" for any further rises in interest rates, which would hit that fragility still further.

In spite of the high street figures, overall distributive trades volumes continued to grow, though buoyed up by wholesalers' volumes, which rose at the strongest rate since September 1987. A balance of two thirds of wholesalers surveyed reported a rise in sales. CBI analysts suggested that sales were rising to public-sector buyers and those with strong export businesses.

Motor traders' sales fell again, though only slightly. Sales volumes throughout all three parts of the distributive trades totalled together rose, with a balance of 29 per cent of firms reporting an increase.

US retail sales: Sales at American retail stores fell sharply in February, the first drop in ten months. Business weakened across the board from new cars to clothing, the Commerce Department said.

Total retail sales dropped a surprising 0.5 per cent to a seasonally adjusted \$192.8 billion after a strongly revised 0.6 per cent rise in January. Wall Street economists had forecast a 0.1 per cent rise in sales last month instead of a decline.

Sales of new cars fell 1 per cent in February, a second straight monthly drop after a 0.2 per cent decline in January. It was the biggest monthly fall in new-car sales since an identical 1 per cent fall in July last year, the Commerce Department said.



Transition time: Charles Scott, chief executive, with Wendy Smyth, finance director of Saatchi & Saatchi, yesterday

Saatchi puts off return to payouts

By Martin Waller

THE upset at the top of Saatchi & Saatchi, the worldwide advertising business, has forced the board to shelve the payment of any dividends for the appreciable future and abandon hopes to push vital margins closer to the levels enjoyed by competitors.

Under its planned recovery, Saatchi, whose shareholders will tomorrow vote on a change of name to Cordiant, had considered starting to pay a dividend again in respect of the 1994 financial year, whose results were announced yesterday. It had also hoped to raise operating margins to 10 per cent this year.

Instead Charles Scott, the chief executive, would not even comment on when dividends would recommence.

So far in 1995 revenues worth £30 million a year have been lost because of the departure of Charles and Maurice Saatchi, the two founding brothers, and other key staff. Still at risk is the British Airways account, which industry insiders reckon to be worth £6-7 million.

As a result, Mr Scott confirmed, work worth 6 per cent of last year's total revenues of almost £800 million has either been lost or may be lost.

Saatchi & Saatchi was announcing pre-tax profits that advanced from £19.2 million in 1993 to £32.4 million last year, but only with the benefit of the non-repetition of £19.1 million of restructuring costs taken the previous year. Earnings per share, on that basis, were ahead from 3.7p to 6.3p.

"The last three months have been extremely eventful and difficult," said Mr Scott. "Inevitably the turmoil will affect our performance in 1995 - instead of being a year of continuing recovery, it will be a year of transition."

Tempus, page 28

Pennington, page 27

Unlucky 13 for Kingfisher

By Susan Gilchrist

KINGFISHER, the retail conglomerate, yesterday reported the first fall in annual profits in its 13-year history.

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive, blamed the setback on problems at the Woolworths and Comet chains. "We have a clear and urgent programme to regain forward momentum," he said.

Disappointing trading and rumours of management friction culminated in the departure of four main board directors, including Alan

Smith, the former chief executive, and James Kerr-Muir, finance director, this year.

The shares, which peaked at 773p in December 1993, have spent much of the year languishing below 400p. Yesterday they rose 5p to 440p.

Pre-tax profits fell to £244.2 million from £309.3 million in the year to January 28, broadly in line with City expectations. Analysts, however, were surprised at the absence of any restructuring provisions. Less than two months ago,

Kingfisher said provisions might be needed to cover the cost of repositioning its problem chains. Yesterday, the group said no such charges were required.

Insiders say Sir Geoffrey had never wanted to make any provisions, but had been overruled by Mr Smith and Mr Kerr-Muir. Their departure and new management at Woolworths and Comet meant Sir Geoffrey was able to overturn that decision.

Sir Geoffrey insisted Wool-

worths remains a core part of the group, in spite of its recent difficulties. "We are committed to building on this unrivalled asset on the high street," he said. However, he hinted that Comet's long-term future may lie elsewhere.

B&Q and Darty made good progress while profits rose sharply at Superdrug. The final dividend, to be paid on July 4, is 10.8p (10.5p), bringing the total to 15.2p (14.9p).

Tempus, page 28

Carsberg unity plan rejected

THE Government yesterday rejected a call from the Director-General of Fair Trading for all the UK's competition authorities to be drawn together into a single body (Philip Bassett writes).

The explicit rejection of the proposal put forward by Sir Bryan Carsberg, the outgoing head of the Office of Fair Trading, will place ministers in a direct clash with the Government's most senior competition regulator.

Sir Bryan's proposal for a unitary competition authority to replace both the OFT and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is also finding support from both business leaders and consumer bodies. But the proposal was thrown out by ministers yesterday. The Trade and Industry Select Committee is looking at the tripartite structure of the department and the two competition authorities.

It is likely, however, that the select committee's report - to be published this later year - will endorse Sir Bryan's proposal.

Lord Carrington joins bidder for Tunnel rail link

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

LORD CARRINGTON has been signed up to the increasingly celebrity-studded competition to build the £3 billion high-speed Channel Tunnel rail link.

The former Foreign Secretary is chairing the bid from Union Link, one of four consortiums which yesterday lodged applications with the Government for Britain's biggest outstanding construction project.

The contract to build the longest new railway in Britain since the turn of the century will be awarded late this year.

Lord Carrington, 75, is the second former Tory Cabinet minister to be recruited to the contest. Lord Parkinson, chairman of the rival EuroRail consortium, served as Transport Secretary and Energy Secretary in the 1980s.

A spokesman for Union Link, which includes firms from Britain, France, Germany and Belgium, said Lord Carrington, a former Secretary-General of Nato, had been

asked to join because of his vast experience in European affairs.

Green Arrow, a German-led construction group bidding for the contract, announced last month that Lord Kingsdown, who as Robin Leigh-Pemberton was Governor of the Bank of England for ten years until 1993, is to head its bid.

The fourth consortium, London and Continental has the relatively low-key Sir Derek Hornby, head of the British Overseas Trade Board, as its chairman. However, it can rely on the entrepreneurial skills of Richard Branson, chairman of the Virgin Group and a consortium member, to boost the bidder's public profile.

The Bill to provide the legislative go-ahead for the construction of the 68-mile link is currently making its passage through Parliament.

Bid battle, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET		
FT-SE 100	3050.6	(+38.8)
Yield	4.2%	
FT-SE All share	1496.02	(+15.37)
Nikkei	16245.82	(-231.82)
New York		
Dow Jones	4051.88	(+28.63)
S&P Composite	492.57	(+2.52)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
Yield	7.39%	(7.45%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Libor long bill	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
Yield	108 1/2	(101 1/2)
STERLING		
New York	1.8870	(1.8920)
London		
\$	1.5885	(1.5873)
DM	2.2416	(2.2489)
FF	7.5480	(8.0183)
Sfr	1.5882	(1.5875)
Yen	144.21	(144.43)
£ Index	85.3	(85.3)
DOLLAR		
London		
\$	1.4125	(1.4070)
DM	5.8075	(6.0020)
FF	1.1735	(1.1740)
Sfr	80.55	(80.73)
Yen	91.7	(91.3)
Tokyo close Yen 90.80		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (May)	\$18.48	(\$18.55)
GOLD		
London close	\$388.05	(\$385.56)
* denotes midday trading price		

Cold on steel

The Government yesterday said that Britain's steel industry faced capacity cuts because of the failure of Brussels to curb state aid in Europe for inefficient steel producers. The Government praised the success of the UK steel industry, but was cautious about overcapacity in Europe. Page 26

Heading east

Williams Holdings, the industrial conglomerate, is looking for a joint venture partner in China as part of its strategy to expand in emerging markets. Page 27, Tempus 28

Boost for divorcees on pension rights

By Anne Ashworth

THE pensions rights of divorced women received a substantial boost in the Lords yesterday, following a series of amendments to the Pensions Bill. After a long campaign, the courts will have to consider the value of the husband's pension when couples divorce, awarding a share of the money to the wife. The husband's pension scheme will bear the responsibility for paying this money.

The Government had proposed that the pension be paid by the husband himself, but an amendment from Baroness Hollis of Heigham, Labour's Social Security spokeswoman in the Lords, successfully replaced the former spouse with his pension scheme.

Pensions and matrimonial lawyers considered the proposed new system was workable but flawed. Such reservations are likely to mean modifications to the proposals as the Bill proceeds to the Commons.

Robin Ellison, of Hammond Suddards, the pension lawyers, said: "If this arrangement is going to become law, then it will have to be thought out very carefully. Although the extra cost to schemes will be

marginal, the main problem is enforcement. Pension schemes will have to trace wives who have changed their addresses. It's possible that there may have to be a registry listing divorced wives who have been awarded rights to their husbands' pensions. Pension schemes will have to consult this before paying out a pension."

The proposal was criticised by the National Association of Pension Funds, which represents the £200 billion in pension schemes in which a total of £300 billion is invested. A spokesman said: "We would prefer to see pensions split at the time of divorce, giving the

wife the cash to buy herself a pension. Under the system now proposed, the divorced wife will get a pension which starts when someone retires and stops at their death. There will be no entitlement to a widow's pension. And, if the ex-husband dies before retirement, she would receive nothing, as she is not eligible for a share of the death-in-service benefits."

Maggie Rae, a leading matrimonial lawyer at Mishcon de Reya, commented: "Obliging pension schemes to pay out the money may prove to be a greater burden than the work involved in dividing a pension on divorce."

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Jobless forecast to stay above two million

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

UNEMPLOYMENT is likely to remain above two million until the next election because of the steps already taken to prevent economic overheating, a new report forecasts today.

Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, will today announce what ministers hope will be the latest fall in unemployment, when he visits a Midlands car part manufacturing

company. City economists are guessing that the current seasonally adjusted total of 2.4 million could fall by a further 40,000.

But in advance of that, a study of the UK labour market by the Employment Policy Institute pressure group welcomes what it calls the "fairly healthy" fall in unemployment, but gives warning that the fall may be slowing.

In a reference to the Government's three recent interest rate rises, aimed

at choking off any signs of resurgent inflation, the report says: "The steps already taken to slow the economy may mean that unemployment will remain above the 2 million level this side of the next election."

Ministers claim that much of the fall in unemployment is due to increased flexibility in the labour market — a key target of government economic policies.

But the EPI concludes that it is "difficult" to assess how important a

factor this is, proposing instead that a more important reason may simply be strong economic growth, and suggesting that the test of the importance of flexibility is yet to come.

"If the labour market really has become more flexible, then unemployment should be able to fall much further without causing the labour market to overheat."

Looking at the impact on unemployment on wages, the institute says that "the economic recovery

could well hit a wage buffer" when unemployment does eventually drop below the 2 million threshold.

The study says that many of the new jobs being created are not low-paid, but it accepts that many people in work do feel insecure, and suggests that talk of greater labour market flexibility and frequent changes of job could itself be reinforcing pessimism about employment almost irrespective of the true state of the labour market.

EU failure to curb aid threatens British steel

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government yesterday said further capacity cuts faced Britain's steel industry because of the failure of Brussels to curb state aid in Europe for inefficient steel producers.

While it praised the success of the UK steel industry, its warning about the industry's future in Britain underlines the longer-term difficulties still facing steel in the UK because of over-capacity in the industry across Europe.

The Government's statement came in its response, published yesterday, to a study on the UK steel industry prepared by the all-party Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee. MPs on the committee said that the Government must reconsider its refusal to provide state aid for Britain's steel industry in the face of continuing European steel subsidies.

Ministers do not accept this point, but the Department of Trade and Industry agrees that the continuation of state aid to some European steel producers is now the main problem facing steel-making in the UK.

The "failure" of Brussels to curb state aid was allowing inefficient steel producers to remain in operation, protected from commercial pressures, the DTI said. This has in turn led to continuing increased capacity and the collapse of a

restructuring plan aimed at taking between 19 and 26 million tonnes of capacity out of the industry.

Tim Eggar, Industry Minister, said in yesterday's DTI response: "Failure to eliminate excess capacity can only mean that the problem will resurface, unalleviated, with the next downturn in demand, to the detriment of efficient UK producers."

He said steel in the UK was now successful both in terms of its efficiency and its export performance, and was now a "highly competitive, world class" industry.

But his statement about the next downturn echoes a warning from the committee that the failure to restructure steelmaking across Europe "leaves underlying problems to be solved during the next downturn in demand."

Mr Eggar insisted that the Government remained "determined to fight for a level playing field for the UK steel industry" and would continue to press for strict enforcement of existing aid rules and rigorous monitoring of existing aid cases.

The Government, together with the industry in the UK, has established a steel subsidies monitoring committee, specifically charged to look at the operation of state aid in steel throughout Europe.



Ward Thomas has wiped out losses at Yorkshire-Tyne Tees

Yorkshire's new broom turns gloom into boom

By MARTIN WALLER

THE new broom treatment at Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television has sent the broadcaster back into the black. Pre-tax profits in the last nine months of 1994 wiped out losses of £4.6 million incurred in the first half, to end-March 1994, and the group ended with profits of £10.5 million in the 15 months to end-December, compared with losses of £7.9 million in the previous year.

Ward Thomas, brought in as chairman and chief executive to rescue the business, said the company was now in a position to pay dividends again. He is recommending a final of 4.7p which, with the token interim already paid, makes a total of 4.8p, against 3.3p paid at the interim stage last time. The payments are out of headline earnings per share of 1p, up from 0.7p.

Profits in the 15 months benefited from advertising revenue, which was currently running on a monthly basis at 20 per cent ahead of the severely depressed levels a year ago. Yorkshire also saw a one-off gain of £2.95 million from the sale of assets into a newly-formed joint venture.

Mr Thomas said at the start of the financial period "the situation looked very gloomy indeed". Advertising income had improved in 1994 and there was every indication that the group was increasing its share of the advertising market within Channel 3.

Yorkshire has been looking at the prospect of joining one of the consortiums lining up bids for Channel 5, if calculations suggested the new channel would be "viable and affordable," Mr Thomas said.

Labour call for global derivatives regulations

By JAMES LANDALE AND NEIL BENNETT

LABOUR called yesterday for an international regulatory regime to oversee the global derivatives market after the collapse of Barings Bank.

In an amendment to the Finance Bill, Labour demanded tougher, prudential trading requirements to minimise risks to the financial markets.

Denis MacShane, MP for Rotherham and member of the Finance Bill Committee, called on Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to consult other finance ministers from the G7 industrialised countries "with a view to devising an agreed international fiscal regime for global derivative markets".

Mr MacShane outlined six proposals "to regulate more efficiently the trading of derivatives". They include an official register for all derivative transactions, an insurance scheme to cover speculative losses and capital adequacy requirements for derivative trading institutions. The amendment also wants adequate margin requirements for each trader and agreed trading limits and price halts.

As expected, the Singapore International Monetary Exchange yesterday issued an official condemnation of the management of Barings for failing to disclose that Nick Leeson, the futures trader blamed for the bank's collapse, had two outstanding County Court judgments against him in the UK.

Meanwhile Mr Leeson's former colleagues say they have all been offered jobs outside Singapore. They remain on indefinite paid holiday at Barings while the investigation into the collapse of the futures business continues.

"Everyone in the office has been offered at least one job in Tokyo, Australia or Hong Kong," a trader said. "There is no question of moving as a team without Nick because he was the main attraction. There is a lot of disappointment at not getting our bonuses."

City Diary, page 29

GEC firm's Paris office searched

By COLIN NARBROUGH

THE Paris headquarters of GEC-Alsthom, the Anglo-French power and transport equipment group, was yesterday searched by Renaud van Ruymbeke, a French judge investigating alleged fraud at Alcatel-Alsthom, France's second biggest industrial group.

The anti-corruption judge's search came as Pierre Suard, chairman of Alcatel-Alsthom, French parent of GEC-Alsthom, was subjected to fresh questioning at Evry, a suburb of Paris, by the judge who on Friday banned him from conducting his corporate functions pending an inquiry into overbilling.

Alcatel, whose British partner in GEC-Alsthom, is Lord Weinstock's GEC group, is alleged to have systematically overcharged France Telecom, the telecommunications monopoly. M. Suard is also alleged to have underpaid for improvements at his home.

A spokesman for Alcatel said there was no particular threat to GEC-Alsthom's activities arising from the search of its offices. M. Van Ruymbeke's investigation centres on alleged illegal funding of political parties by GEC-Alsthom. Yesterday's search was linked to a consultancy that financed left-wing parties in 1990.

TOURIST RATES		
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.23	2.06
Austria Sch	16.81	15.31
Belgium Fr	45.45	48.13
Canada \$	2.358	2.186
Cypriot Cyp£	0.757	0.702
Denmark Kr	6.83	6.83
Finland Mk	7.28	6.93
France Fr	8.43	7.76
Germany DM	2.40	2.18
Greece Dr	378.00	354.00
Hong Kong \$	12.33	11.05
Ireland P	1.55	0.57
Israel	5.299	4.509
Italy Lira	2776.00	2820.00
Japan Yen	164.00	143.00
Norway Kr	0.83	0.848
Netherlands Gld	2.673	2.448
Norway Kr	10.83	9.80
Portugal Esc	240.50	220.00
Spain Ptas	166.64	153.00
Sweden Kr	213.00	200.00
Switzerland Fr	2.01	1.83
Turkey Lira	1.87	1.57
USA \$	1.87	1.57

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bundesbank helps to ease dollar slide

THE dollar firmed a little against the mark yesterday from DM1.4080 to DM1.4125, helped by mild speculation that the Bundesbank may ease its repurchase rate tomorrow, and by evidence suggesting that the rate of US economic growth is easing and, along with it, inflationary pressures. The Atlanta Federal Reserve reported a slower pace of growth in business activity in February, compared with January, and an easing of price pressures. US retail sales fell 0.5 per cent in February. Sterling firmed a little against the mark, also helped by speculation of lower German rates. It did not appear to react badly to a downbeat distributive trades survey from the CBI. It closed one pfennig higher against the mark, at DM2.2455 but was a touch lower against the dollar at \$1.5877.

Otmir Issing, Bundesbank board member, contributed to the speculation about German rates by saying that the current strength of the mark would have a positive impact on German inflation but could also be negative for the economy. He said that, if foreign currencies were to stay at current levels, individual German companies would certainly face problems. However, many analysts said that the German central bank would still be cautious about cutting rates.

EuroDisney cuts losses

EURODISNEY executives said that they expect the company to reach breakeven next year, after reducing losses in 1994 to £1.8 billion from £5.3 billion in 1993. Philippe Bourguignon, chairman and managing director, told the annual meeting that the group expects to reach breakeven because of the positive effects of financial restructuring in 1994, as well as a rise in sales and productivity. He said price reductions, including a 22 per cent cut in the high-season entrance fee effective from April 1, should attract 500,000 more visitors this year.

Rosebys advances

ROSEBYS, the specialist retailer of household textiles and soft furnishings, is raising its dividend to 4.85p (4.65p) for the year, with a final of 3.35p payable on May 12, after seeing a modest improvement in full-year profits. Pre-tax profits edged up by 3 per cent to £2.83 million in the year to December 31, as turnover climbed 5 per cent to £51.3 million. Unusually hot weather over the summer, low consumer spending and a depressed housing market affected results. Earnings per share stood at 9.1p (9.4p restated).

IBM chief's \$12m deal

IBM paid its chief executive \$4.6 million in salary and bonuses last year, and gave him another \$7.75 million to compensate for the sale of his shares in his old company. According to IBM's proxy statement, Louis Gersner received a \$2 million salary and \$2.6 million in bonuses. The compensation came after a promise by IBM when he was hired from RJR Nabisco in 1993, which guaranteed him more than \$8.12 for each RJR share held. Mr Gersner, 53, will receive an annual pension of \$1.14 million from IBM at 60.

ALM attacks Lloyd's

THE Association of Lloyd's Members has launched a scathing attack on the insurance market's system of self-regulation. In its latest news letter, the ALM said: "The Lloyd's self-regulatory system has been a disaster." And while progress has been made, "Lloyd's has yet to match the regulatory competence of other major markets", it states. The ALM also argues that it is time to settle the protracted mass of legal actions that have been brought by thousands of names against Lloyd's agencies.

Bayer and BASF ahead

STRONG recovery in the German chemical industry enabled Bayer and BASF, two of the country's increasingly acquisitive "big three" players, to increase their dividends on their 1994 results. Bayer said it was raising its dividend by DM2 to DM13 after a 47 per cent increase in its net profit to DM2.01 billion. Rival BASF also raised its dividend by DM2 to DM10 on the back of 50 per cent increase in net profit to DM1.28 billion. Hoechst, the other member of the big three, had earlier announced its decision to lift its dividend by DM3 to DM10.

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	1994	1993
£m		
Turnover	898.6	832.7
Profit before interest	71.3	60.0
Profit before tax	65.1	53.4
Earnings per share	27.7p	23.1p
Ordinary dividend	15.5p	14.5p

Copies of the Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1994, from which the above is an extract, are available from 31st March from the Secretary, Delta plc, 1 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NF. Telephone 0171 836 3535.

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Source of figures: GFS Client Survey for Griffin Factors, September 1994.

□ Electricity firms still hope to escape tougher regime □ Financial squeeze in the East □ Good work wiped out at Cordiant

Punishment grid

□ AS any engineer knows, quick and easy fixes often lead to long-term structural problems. Some of the ideas ranting around the electricity industry about how to mend relations with the regulator have a distinctly boded feel to them.

Those readers who have yet to check their post this morning should not look on the door-mat for a large cheque courtesy of Professor Littlechild, for example. Furthermore, although the regional electricity companies are meeting today to consider whether the National Grid flotation can go ahead, they are not going to exit the meeting with any degree of unanimity.

The idea of a rebate to customers this year, whether of £20 a household and courtesy of the National Grid float or more recently of £50 to get Professor Littlechild off the industry's back, is not a new one. Last week, a minority of the 12 regional electricity companies, or Recs, started to drum up the notion that a one-off payment, if big enough, would be a sufficient substitute for a proper review as threatened by the professor.

This is in effect a one-off utility tax, as suggested by Labour, under any other name, but with the proceeds going to the consumer rather than to the Treasury. The problem is that it would require a degree of

consensus within the industry that has hitherto been rather scarce, and it is hard to see how such a one-off could be funded.

Everyone here has their own agenda. The smaller Recs, with equally small customer registers, would find it a cheap get-out, if the professor would just oblige. Such a payment, if funded for example as to £20 from the Grid and £30 from the companies' own resources, would leave the smaller fry with gearing levels barely into the thirties. It would do few favours for the likes of Eastern, Yorkshire or East Midlands, who would see gearing climb to 60 per cent and beyond.

A one-off payment forced by Professor Littlechild would also, like any form of Danegeld, leave the possibility of a subsequent further imposition if he felt the industry's funds could support it, so it would lack the element of certainty the industry is looking for and which would be provided by a full review.

The complication is the National Grid, and the degree to which a float could fund a consumer rebate as debt is injected into the company and

paid to the Recs in the form of a special dividend. The views of the Grid management are academic; the difficulty is that the higher the debt, the higher the ACT on that dividend, which might not be recovered if profits from the industry fall in subsequent years, perhaps because of a tougher pricing regime.

The idea of a £1.2 billion rebate to consumers does have a certain symmetrical attraction, however; it is almost precisely what the companies have paid out to shareholders to date as special dividends and share buy-backs. Just how such a rebate is achievable is another matter.

Countdown to gloom in Tokyo

□ STOCK market Romantics can forget the idea that Nick Leeson would have triumphed if only he could have held out. On Tuesday, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 share index sank below 16,250, its lowest point for the year. And local technical factors, such as Barings's mistaken contracts, could no longer be blamed. True



Romantics will not give up yet. As the hours tick by to the making up of banks' accounts, much rides on a recovery at least to 17,000, if not the near-20,000 level at which the Nikkei started 1995. If anyone thought they could bribe a few key players and thereby achieve a result, they would. Thus far, even barely covert government support for shares has not done the trick.

Share prices have slipped decisively below their 15-year moving average for the first time in a generation, barring a brief crossover in 1993. That symbolically questions the confident culture of the Japanese markets, which can usually take short-term setbacks in its stride. Not-so-cuddly bears look in control. Sentiment un-

doubtedly coloured Tokyo's reaction to the Kobe earthquake — not the sentiment of shock at the fate of fellow citizens so much as an instinctively pessimistic view of the financial consequences. There would have been as much financial logic in stock market prices moving the other way.

The surprise acceleration of the yen's upward march has brought more solid gloom. A rise from 100 yen to the dollar to 90 in short time will damage profit in the export sectors, as well as sending more output offshore. Some sectors competing with newly encouraged imports could fare worse. Kleinwort Benson still expects normal profit rises to average more than 10 per cent in the coming financial year but that is poor in what should have been the first bloom of recovery.

The problems of banks, which used to lend heavily abroad, and the burnt fingers of investors, who have seen their dollar investments crumble, strengthen the yen further. At least the thundering hooves of departing foreign investors should help to moderate the currency's latest

boost. When the herd is galloping fastest for the exit, it will be time for investors aged more than 27 to return.

A painful result

□ THE first set of financials since the Saatchis *et al* debacle were always going to be an ordeal for the ongoing management of what will soon be known to the world as Cordiant, but yesterday was a trial indeed.

Some 6 per cent of revenues are either at risk or have already walked. Margins are heading the wrong way again and shareholders can forget any dividends. All this came after a year in which, following the loss of the Chrysler and Helene Curtis accounts in the US, a 0.6 per cent real rise in revenues was accompanied by a 5 per cent fall in actual, like-for-like profits.

Small wonder the banks are driving such a hard bargain as the group renegotiates facilities for another year to the start of 1997. Cordiant is facing a commitment

fee approaching £5 million and interest rates 2 to 3 per cent above LIBOR. Further uncertainties, now the group has decided to keep much of its workforce rather than resorting to sackings, are how much of the lost revenues can be made up.

Assessing profits for the current year is a thankless task. In effect the group has been pushed back to where it was at least a year ago, and the good work by Charlie Scott and his team has been wiped out. Shareholders should address most of their thanks to David Herro, the Chicago investor with 10 per cent, but the sniping campaign by and against the Saatchi brothers has hardly helped.

Blacklist

□ NEW guidance for members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants says: "One of the best ways to avoid clients or potential clients becoming a problem is not to take them on in the first place". True. So would-be auditors should check, among other things, for dubious directors' behaviour, adverse press comment, a big recent change of ownership, criticism by any public body, reliance on a single product or undue influence by someone outside the company. That should rule out the privatised utilities.

Williams looks for joint venture partner in China

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

WILLIAMS Holdings, the industrial conglomerate, is looking for a joint venture partner in China as part of its strategy to expand in emerging markets. Roger Carr, chief executive, said the group was talking to two or three parties with a view to establishing a joint venture with Williams's securities products business, which includes the Yale brand. It is also interested in exploring opportunities in South America and South Africa.

Mr Carr said bolt-on acquisitions were still much on the agenda. Last year the group

spent £212 million on buying companies and Mr Carr said it would be willing to spend a similar sum in the current year, if the appropriate opportunities arose.

The security division is the priority area for the group. "We need to make acquisitions to achieve critical mass," Mr Carr said. However, no deals are imminent.

His remarks came as Williams unveiled a 31 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £200.3 million from £153.2 million in the year to December 31, in line with City expectations. Although the

bottom line was boosted by the contribution from acquisitions, underlying operating profits still rose 12 per cent.

Mr Carr said the group had protected margins, in spite of intense competition and raw material price increases, by investing in more efficient production and better sourcing.

The European building products division lifted underlying profits 9 per cent, due to strong growth in continental Europe. The DIY market in the UK remained flat. The building products operations in North America were buoyant, in spite of extreme wea-

ther conditions and natural disasters in the first quarter.

The security products division benefited from the acquisition of Corbin Russwin in the prior year, while further progress was made in the fire protection business.

The group is beginning to see signs of recovery in the UK, while growth in the US and continental Europe continues to gather momentum. The final dividend, to be paid on May 25, is lifted to 8.25p (7.62p) bringing the total payout to 13.5p (12.54p).

Tempos, page 28

Glynwed profits from Aga surge

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

PRE-TAX profits at Glynwed International, the Birmingham engineering group, jumped 47.5 per cent to £67.1 million in the year to December 31, helped by a recovery in many of its markets and a record performance from Aga Rayburn cookers.

Greater efficiency, strong exports and acquisition benefits helped turnover to climb 6.1 per cent to £1.02 billion. Most divisions achieved higher profits in spite of pressure on margins from rising raw material costs.

Gareth Davies, the chairman, said that consumer products had an excellent year even though UK consumer spending was below

that of the previous year, while steels and engineering were helped by buoyant exports and productivity gains.

However, Glynwed's tubes and fittings division suffered from overcapacity in the copper tube industry and incurred a loss of £3.9 million (£2.2 million loss).

Strong cash generation helped to trim interest costs to £7.5 million (£10.1 million). An increased final dividend of 8.1p (7.5p) will be paid on June 2, giving a total of 12.25p (11.65p) for the year, from earnings of 21.34p (14.91p) a share.

Glynwed plans to build on its core businesses with further acquisitions.

Inspec to pay £80m for Belgian group

BY CARL MORTISHED

LESS than a year since its £136 million stock market debut, Inspec, the specialty chemicals group, is to double in size with the £80 million acquisition of BP Antwerp in Belgium.

Inspec shares rose from 209p to 225p yesterday in spite of the launch of a 4 for 11 rights issue at 175p, raising £53 million to help to finance the deal. The acquisition of BP Antwerp, which produces specialty and commodity chemicals on 425 acres of land within Europe's largest petrochemical complex, will reunite two businesses once under the BP roof.

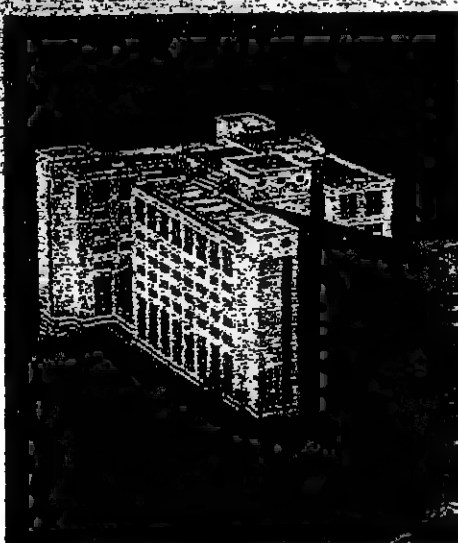
Inspec was bought out by BP Chemicals in 1992. Its operations in Hythe, Hampshire, are leading consumers of ethylene

glycol, a commodity chemical which accounts for a third of BP Antwerp's profits. The Antwerp site also produces ENB, a high margin specialty chemical used to make high performance rubber, and BP Antwerp has a third business leg providing management to other businesses developing facilities on the site.

Inspec expects profits to soar after the deal, forecasting pre-tax profits of £12.2 million for the half-year to June, a shade under 1994's full-year result of £12.3 million against £5.6 million in 1993. Inspec is paying a dividend of 4p on earnings of 11.75p (5.25p).

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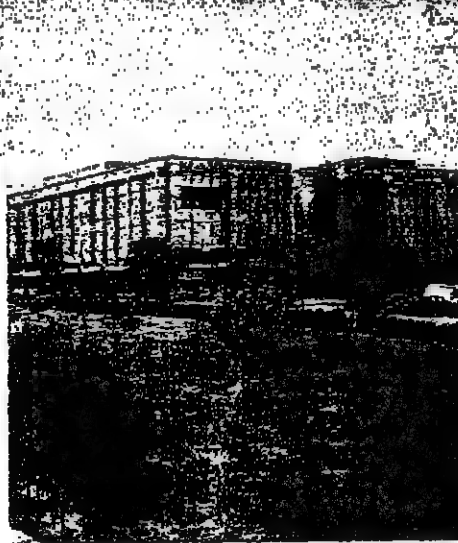
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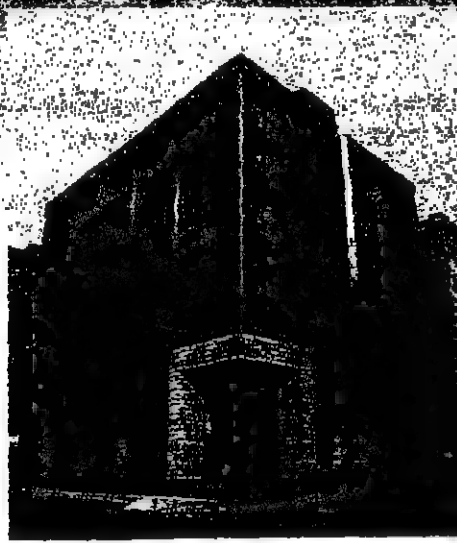


West Cross House
Brentford

73,000 sq ft

Weatherall Green
& Smith
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(ref: AZB)

Cooper Martin
0171-255 1255
(ref: DM)



38 Cadogan St
Glasgow

40,000 sq ft

Ryden
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(ref: K Mcl)

Colliers Erdman Lewis
0141-307 6666
(ref: SK)

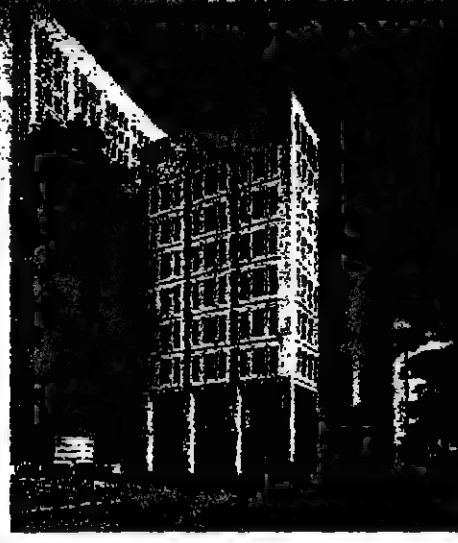


Mountbatten House
Basingstoke

155,000 sq ft

Hillier Parker
0171-629 7666
(ref: LKM)

Healey & Baker
0171-629 9292
(ref: MRC)



54 Hagley Road
Edgbaston

57,000 sq ft

Weatherall Green
& Smith
0171-493 5566
(ref: KPS)

DTZ Debenham Thorpe
0121-200 2050
(ref: NW)

IBM

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Double Lim-it

GOVERNMENT investigations are a family affair in Singapore. When Michael Lim, managing partner of Price Waterhouse, was appointed by the finance minister to investigate the collapse of Barings Futures Singapore, it was like old times. Lim, or Lim Choo San to give him his formal Chinese name, is the younger brother of Lim Choo Peng who was the scourge of another British business 23 years ago. The elder Lim, now 50, was called in by Singapore's stock exchange to investigate dealings in Haw Par Brothers International, a Slater Walker subsidiary, and uncovered how it had smoothed profits using a hidden unit trust and a chain of subsidiaries, which caused much embarrassment in the wake of the collapse of Slater Walker. Lim minor can only hope to emulate his big brother.

NO SOONER had yesterday's City Diary arrived on breakfast tables telling of the antics of Lord King of Warraby's faithful dog, The Hon Joe, than Lord King phoned. Sadly, The Hon Joe has been run over by one of the farm vehicles and was buried on Monday.

Bank on the box

LOYDS BANK is bringing a little decorum to the sponsorship of television game shows, hitherto the preserve of tabloid newspapers. LWT, which provides programmes for the London region at weekends, will start filming a new show later this month at its South Bank studios for screening in June. Lloyds has perhaps wisely chosen to back A Seat on the Board, in which captains of industry become captains of rival teams struggling with every day company crises. At the end of each programme, a studio audience will vote on which panel coped best with the challenges, bad debts and perhaps a little derisive dabbling by a rogue director.



"It makes a change from red"

Own goal

TIMING is all. At 1.29pm yesterday, I received a fax from Sanderson Electronics announcing it had signed a major football sponsorship worth "a substantial seven figure sum" with Southampton Football Club. At 8.47am yesterday, BBC1 broke into its programme to announce that Southampton's goalkeeper, Bruce Grobbelaar, had been arrested....

Slim fast plan

MONDAY night should have been a time of celebration for City restaurateur Chris "Chubbie" Haynes at the opening of his latest eatery, Eatons at Broadgate. Instead, the jovial bon vivant was in deep gloom having been ordered by his wife to lose weight. In fact, she told him that until he has shed enough so that he weighs less than double her trim seven stones, she is withdrawing him his conjugal rights. She told all the guests at the opening too.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Bid battle begins for fast track to Europe

Four groups want the Channel Tunnel rail link contract, says Ross Tieman

Today could be the beginning of a golden age for Britain's railways. In road-ringed Croydon, south London, officials will begin to examine bids to build Britain's longest new railway for 90 years. At a cost of more than £2.7 billion, or £31.4 million a mile, the 86-mile Channel Tunnel rail link will rank among the most expensive railways in the world.

The stage was set yesterday with minimum fuss. Four huge bundles of files were delivered to the headquarters of Union Railways, the Transport Department's project company in Croydon. One submission, running to 7,000 pages, arrived in a 7½-tonne truck. On average, each bid, made up of seven options, is reckoned to weigh a tonne and a half.

Seduced by the charms of a £1 billion-plus government dowry, four formidable consortiums have applied to build Britain's first real high-speed railway, stretching from Folkestone, at the mouth of the Channel Tunnel, to St Pancras station in London.

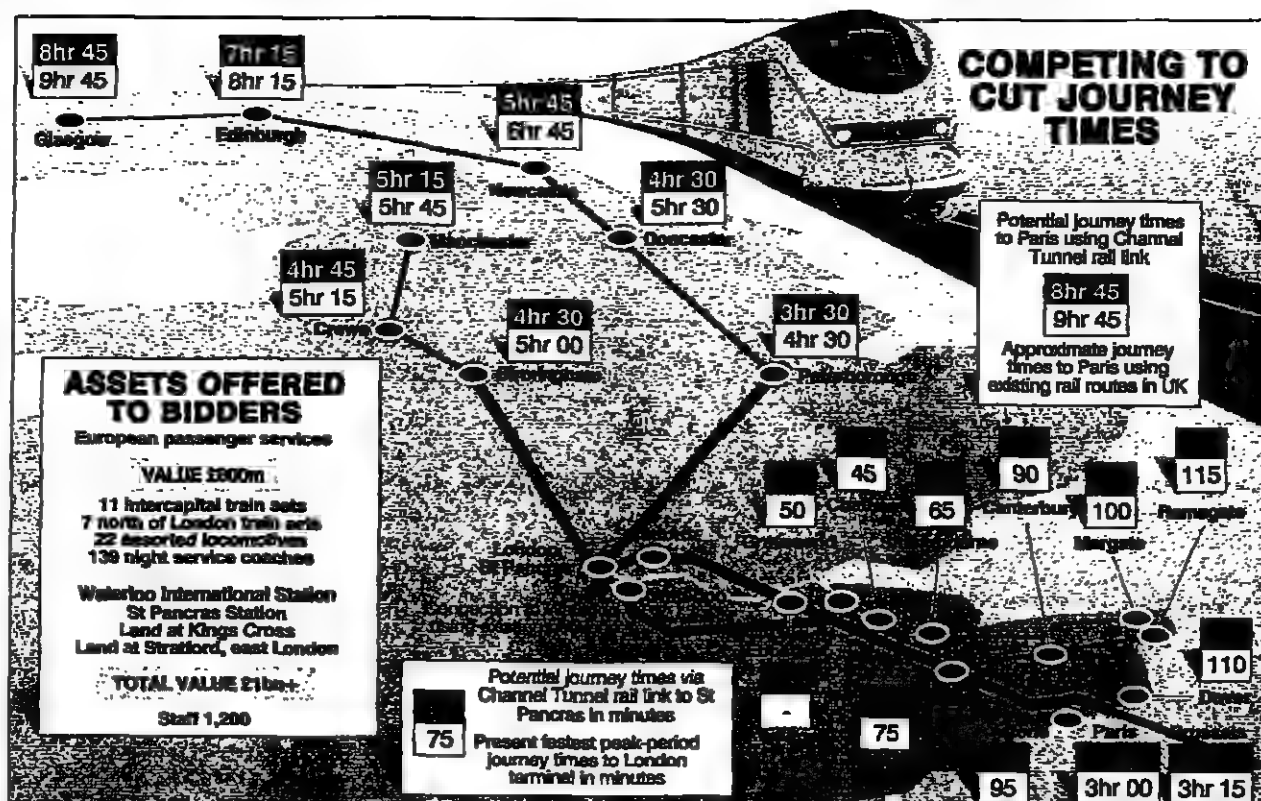
After an interminable argument about the need for the link, and the appropriate route, the Government is now keen to get work under way. The invitation to tender talks of a five-year construction project. Services would begin, at the earliest, in the year 2002.

Without the link, the Government says, traffic growth would cause demand to exceed capacity on rail routes to the Channel early in the next century. With it, the journey time from London to Paris will be cut to 2 hours and 30 minutes, while the time from London to Brussels, city centre to city centre, will be cut to 2 hours and 10 minutes.

And so they may. But that is not why four of the most powerful industrial consortiums ever assembled in Britain sent their proposals to Croydon yesterday. A half-hour saving on the journey from London to Paris is not going to repay a £2.7 billion investment, let alone make the fortunes of those involved.

Yet the contest to build the link is beginning to make the battle for the National Lottery resemble a playground scrap. Three heavyweight peers of the realm and a knowledgeable knight have been recruited to lead the syndicates and spearhead their political lobbying.

The list of bidders and advisers makes impressive reading. There is Lord Parkinson, the former Transport Secretary, fronting Eurorail CTRL, the all-British bid. Barring for Germany is the cricket fan and former Governor of the Bank of England, Lord Kingsdown, at the head of



Soaring sales of suppressant boost Medeva

By SARAH BAGNALL

STRONG organic growth fuelled by soaring sales of the suppressant Methyphenidate helped Medeva to beat market expectations with a 35 per cent leap in profits.

Pre-tax profits for the year to December 31 increased from £46.1 million to £64.2 million, topping the range of market forecasts of £58 million to £61 million. The shares rose 15p to 196p in heavy trading as 4.4 million shares changed hands. The shares have partly recovered from the July 1993 profit warning that sent them sliding 104p to 122p.

The rise in profits was achieved on the back of sales of £240 million, up 20 per cent. Of the £40 million growth in sales, 18 per cent was due to organic growth. The star performer was Methyphenidate, used to suppress disruptive or anti-social behaviour in children, which saw sales leap from £35 million to £66 million. Bill Bogie, chief executive, said the

performance benefited from a 32 per cent increase in prescription sales, coupled with some one-off factors. Looking forward, Mr Bogie said that sales of Methyphenidate, which is off patent, were expected to grow by about 30 per cent.

Overall underlying sales of the group's ten major products, which contributed 68 per cent of total sales, rose 30 per cent. Excluding methyphenidate sales rose 7 per cent.

Mr Bogie said the group was well placed to benefit from the upheaval in the pharmaceutical industry. "Whilst no pharmaceutical company is immune to these changes, we believe that Medeva can flourish in this new environment."

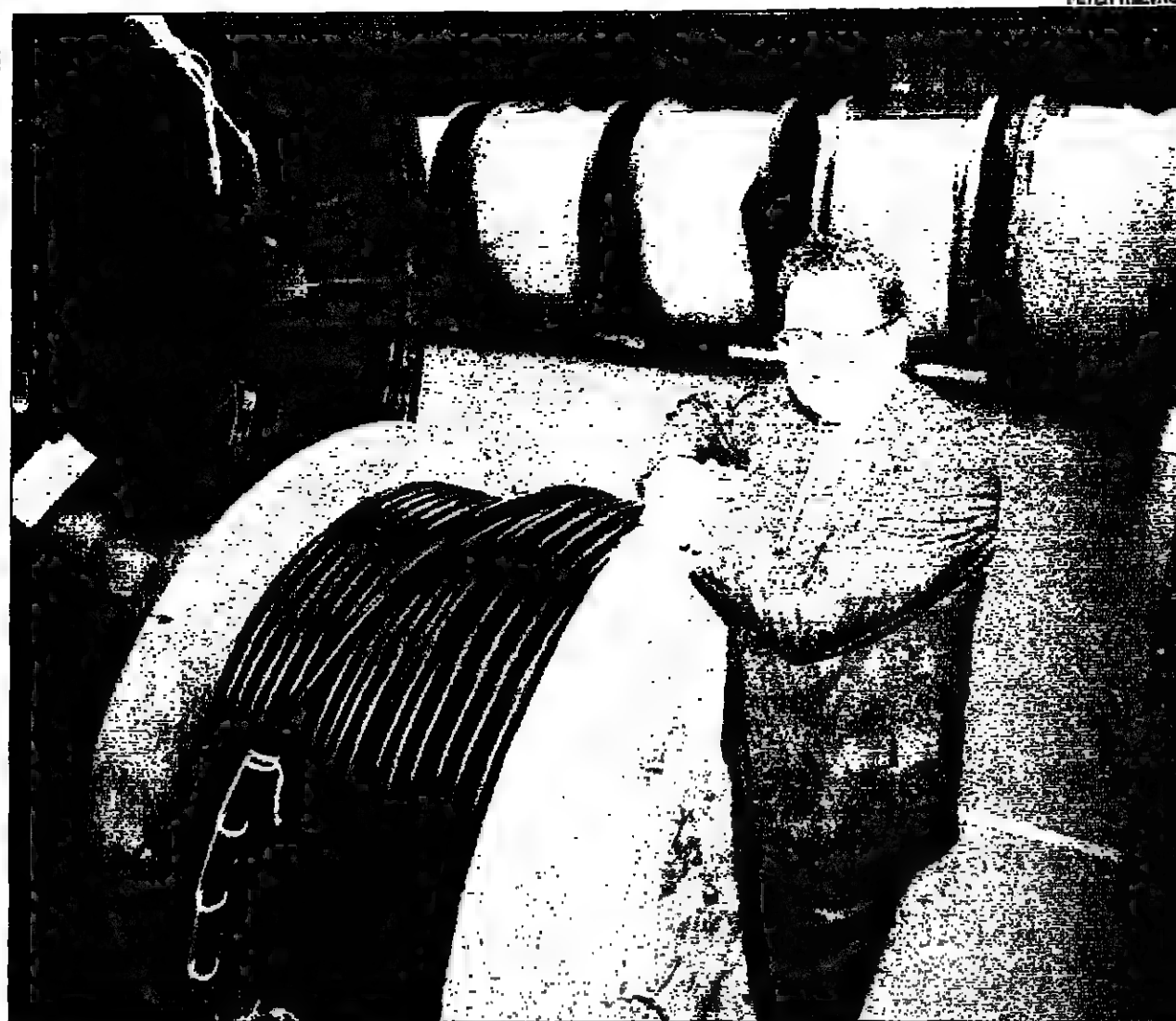
Medeva's strategy is to buy, or licence in, products late in their development phase but which operate in markets with strong natural barriers to entry. This is illustrated by

Methyphenidate, a product that has been around for 35 years and was acquired by Medeva in 1991 for \$77 million. Since its purchase sales have soared.

Mr Bogie said the prospects for Hepagene, the group's Hepatitis B vaccine acquired in 1992, were exciting. "It has the potential to transform the group," he said. Hepagene is effective for people with a high degree of resistance to usual vaccines, a annual market of up to 1.5 million people. It may also prove effective in treating the world's 300 million carriers of Hepatitis B.

Group margins rose from 61 per cent to 65 per cent and research and development costs rose from 6 per cent to 7 per cent of sales.

The final dividend, is lifted from 1.8p to 2.2p, making a total for the year of 3.3p, compared to 2.7p last time. Earnings per share rose from 11.8p to 14.6p.



Robert Easton, chief executive, said strong export growth was the driving force behind the advance in profits

SAS places order for 35 Boeings

Scandinavian Airline Systems, the leading Nordic carrier and equity partner of British Midland, has placed an 8.5 billion Swedish kronor (£733 million) for 35 Boeing aircraft after last year flying back into the black.

News of the aircraft order coincided yesterday with the release of final 1994 figures, which showed a pre-tax profit of 1.51 billion kronor after a 492 million kronor loss in 1993, when its plan to merge with the Swiss, Austrian and Dutch national carriers was grounded.

The firm aircraft order for Boeing 737-400s, includes options to buy another 35 planes. The aircraft will replace planes in danger of falling under environmental and economy standards and marks a gradual phase-out of the McDonnell Douglas DC-9 and Fokker F28. Delivery of the aircraft starts in 1998.

Profits leap

Wellington Holdings, the polymer products manufacturer, saw pre-tax profits leap 53 per cent to £4.1 million in the year to December 31. The rise was achieved on the back of record sales of £47.9 million, up by nearly 12 per cent. The final dividend, due on May 24, is 4.3p, making a total for the year of 5.5p.

Britton ahead

Acquisitions and organic growth helped Britton Group, the fast-growing folding cartons and polythene packaging group, to a surge in pre-tax profits to £10.7 million in the year to December 31, against £2.73 million last time. Turnover, driven up by acquisitions, rocketed to £121.4 million (£26.8 million). There is a final dividend of 1.5p (0.9p) payable on May 26, giving a total dividend of 2.5p (1.5p) for the year, from earnings ahead 30 per cent to 8.74p (6.70p) a share.

Epwin rises

Healthy demand from housebuilders helped Epwin Group, the plastic windows and doors maker, to lift pre-tax profits by 32 per cent to £6.18 million in the year to December 31. A combination of organic growth and acquisitions saw turnover advance by 21 per cent to £61.5 million. Earnings rose by 19 per cent to 18.04p (15.17p) a share and the total dividend is increased by 16 per cent to 8.7p (7.5p), with final dividend of 6p payable on July 3.

Delta reels in a 22% profits rise

By PHILIP PANGALOS

STRONG exports and the benefits of past cost controls helped Delta, the cables and engineering group, to a healthy 22 per cent advance in full-year profits.

Organic growth drove pre-tax profits up to £65.1 million in the year to December 31, from £53.4 million previously, as turnover grew 8 per cent to £899 million. Exports accounted for more than a quarter of UK production.

Robert Easton, chief executive, said strong export growth was the driving force behind the profits advance, though he admits that the UK is still a bit of a problem area. "Germany is the powerhouse, but Spain and France are also doing well. In the UK underlying demand is better, but we're certainly not off to the races yet," he said.

Delta achieved a positive cash flow of £4.1 million in spite of higher capital spend and increased material costs.

With gearing down to 20 per cent, Mr Easton expects further expansion in the current year to be fuelled by a combination of organic growth and strategic acquisitions. An increased final dividend of 11.2p (10.3p) a share is payable on June 1, making an improved total of 15.5p (14.5p) for the year, from earnings ahead to 27.7p (23.1p) a share. Delta shares added 18p to 450p.

KINGFISHER

"Our priority is to restore value for our shareholders."

For the first time since the Group's formation in 1982 we are having to report a reduction in profits. Good progress by B&Q, Darty, Superdrug and Chartwell Land was undermined by serious setbacks at Woolworths and Comet.

- B&Q increased sales and profits and consolidated its leadership of DIY retailing in the UK, where the sector has restructured to its advantage.

- Darty increased its leading market share of French electricals and made a first full year contribution to the Group of over £100m.

- Superdrug increased profits by 21 per cent to a record level on the back of a shift to more health and beauty specialism.
- Chartwell Land which is now almost totally focused on retail property, increased investment income. The Group's property assets now total over £950m in value.

Against these solid achievements the reverses at Woolworths and Comet are all the more disappointing.

Our detailed reviews of these businesses show that their problems were largely due to trading and operational issues affecting sales.

We are tackling these urgently and our recovery plans do not require the provisions for restructuring that in January we warned might be necessary.

Our absolute priority this year is to restore value for shareholders as quickly as possible. We have already made

changes to Kingfisher's board and to the managements of Woolworths and Comet, and cut back the size of our headquarters. Kingfisher now has a lean centre with fully devolved managements running and developing each of its retail companies.

We are now committed to an urgent programme to regain our forward momentum.

- We already have recovery programmes in place at Woolworths and Comet and we are working on strategies for their longer term progress.

- We are also increasing our investment in the growth of B&Q, Darty and Superdrug through a combination of expansion, new store formats and improved technology.

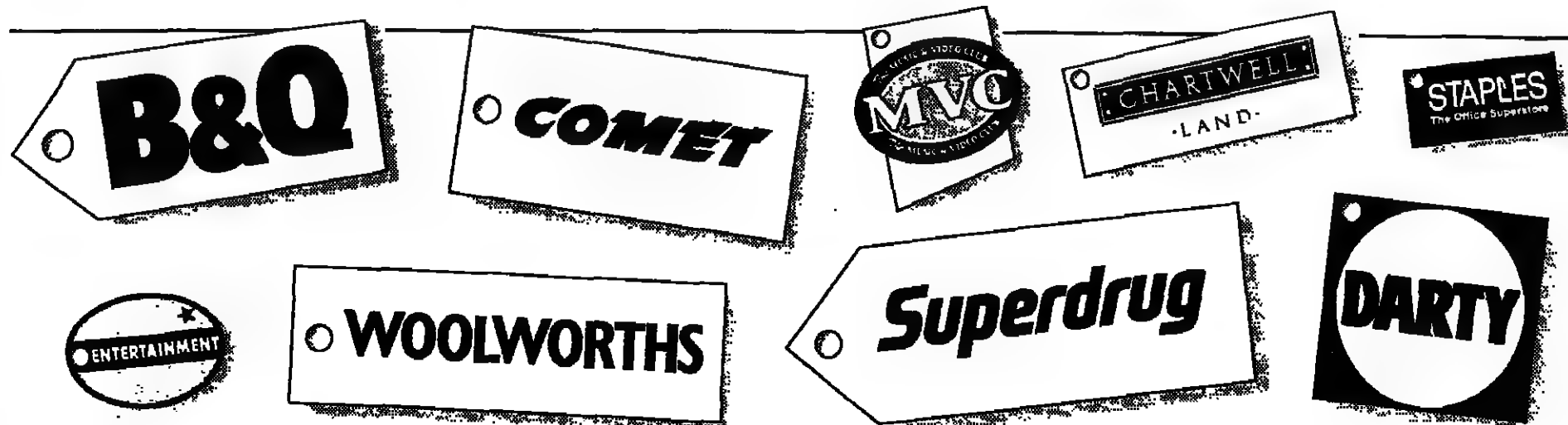
Our capital spending on the development of the Group this year is planned to exceed £200m, funded from the Group's strong cash flow. This is a measure of the attractiveness of our markets and the potential for growing our businesses.

Each of our companies has as its priority the need to serve its customers better. This is our strategy to increase our profits and reward our shareholders.

I look forward to reporting our progress.

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, Group Chief Executive.



THE TIMES Win a £6,000 PEP



A Personal Equity Plan (PEP) is a way of investing money out of the reach of the tax man and *The Times*, in association with TSB Bank, is offering you the chance to win a £6,000 PEP. Answer the questions which appeared on Saturday and which will reappear on Friday, collect four of the six PEP tokens which are appearing each day, and you could win an investment in your choice of three TSB unit trusts:

- The TSB UK Income Fund aims to provide a high-income return with the potential for some capital growth over the longer term, from investments in Britain.
- The TSB UK Growth Fund invests in a wide range of UK ordinary shares and aims for long-term capital growth.
- The TSB Worldwide Growth Fund aims for long-term capital growth from a broad spread of international securities, with at least half of the fund invested in Europe.

These three funds, which were launched in November 1994, have all ranked in the top quartile of their particular unit trust sectors over the past three months.

Because of the regulations governing PEPs, winners will receive a holding in the unit trust of their choice. Provided they are eligible, they will be able to convert this to a PEP at no cost either immediately or, if they have already taken out a PEP this year, after the end of the current financial year.

A PEP investment is an excellent home for long-term savings, with all income and capital growth exempt from both income tax and capital gains tax. Readers can obtain full details of TSB PEPs at their nearest TSB Bank branch.

How to enter
Collect four of the six tokens which are appearing this week and send them on a postcard with the answer to Saturday's questions plus the tie-breaker by March 22, 1995 to: *The Times* Win a PEP Competition, Week 4, 16 Whitefriars Street, EC8R 2NG. The winner will be selected from all correct entries received by the closing date.

*Source: Micropal offer-to-offer, income not reinvested. (As at 18.2.95)

THE TIMES
Fourth week
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Barrat: boosting sales

LORD TAYLOR MEMORIAL
A memorial service to be held at St. Martin's, Trafalgar Square, London, on Wednesday 19 April.
All are welcome and asked to write for tickets to Woodrow Group, 100 Road, Southall, Middlesex.
Tickets will be posted.

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Wolseley cautious despite 35% profit rise

By MARTIN BARROW

A CAUTIOUS trading statement from Wolseley, the builders' merchant group, offset the impact of a strong rise in first-half profits, which came in at the top end of market expectations yesterday.

The company achieved a 35 per cent increase in profits to £117.3 million in the six months to January 31 from £87 million previously. It reported strong organic growth and contributions from acquisitions.

The interim dividend is lifted to 2.95p a share from 2.30p, in line with forecasts and payable from earnings that rose to 14.21p a share from 11.04p. But the company's shares eased 7p to 341p in response to a downbeat statement on short-term prospects.

Jeremy Lancaster, chairman and managing director, said the immediate outlook for the UK distribution business remained uninspiring with a depressed housing market and no evidence yet of a recovery in consumer confidence. The picture was brighter in mainland Europe, although it was expected that consumer expenditure in France would be delayed because of political uncertainties in the approach to the

general elections. Meanwhile, in America evidence was emerging that boom conditions that lifted Wolseley's East Coast businesses in the first half were now subsiding.

Mr Lancaster also said the manufacturing companies continued to experience upwards pressure on raw material prices. He emphasised that Wolseley's Enertech companies were seasonally geared towards the first half.

Last year trading profits rose to £117.26 million from £86.97 million, with a £9.9 million contribution from acquisitions made in the previous financial year.

Profits from building distribution in Europe advanced to £46.8 million from £35 million, while US distribution activities lifted their contribution to £47.6 million from £34.8 million. Profits from manufacturing rose to £25.5 million from £18.8 million. Net borrowings at the end of January were £64.3 million, rising from £56.3 million six months earlier, with gearing of 10.5 per cent. Net cash inflow from operating activities was £82.2 million (£85.7 million).

Tempos, page 28

Singaporeans buy Barratt homes

FROM NEIL BENNETT IN SINGAPORE

IN A desperate attempt to breathe life into the housing market, Barratt Developments, one of Britain's largest house builders and chaired by Sir Lawrie Barratt, has turned to Singaporean investors to persuade them to buy its Docklands flats.

Unlike British home owners, wealthy Singaporeans are flocking to take advantage of Barratt's offer. Last weekend, Cluttons, the estate agency chain, hosted an exhibition in Singapore's Hilton Hotel. It notched up 16 sales worth an estimated £2 million.

Singaporeans are attracted to London property because it is cheap compared with their

local market. Prices for Barratt's flats start at just over £80,000. For that you could not find a broom cupboard in Singapore, even in an unfashionable district.

Last year Cluttons estimates it sold £100 million of residential property in Hong Kong and Singapore.

The buyers are wealthy Singaporean businessmen and professionals who are interested in Docklands property as an investment. A well-let flat can yield more than 9 per cent, three times the average rate in Singapore. Flats come fully furnished and equipped for letting and, as a sweetener, Barratt guarantees a 10 per cent rental return for the first year.

"They are buying purely for investment and yield," says Jane Landy, a Cluttons director. Many do not even bother to see the property they are buying except in a Cluttons video, says Ms Landy, who is hosting similar exhibitions every month.

Although the flats are billed as being close to the City, they are in fact in Rotherhithe, and while the pictures show Canary Wharf in the background, the advertisement fails to mention there is a river in between.



Barratt: boosting sales

LORD TAYLOR OF HADFIELD MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for Lord Taylor of Hadfield will be held at St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ, at 3.00pm on Wednesday 19 April.

All are welcome and those wishing to attend are asked to write for tickets to Ruth Barber, Taylor Woodrow Group, Taywood House, 345 Ruislip Road, Southall, Middlesex UB1 2QX by 31 March. Tickets will be posted on 7 April.



Following the DIVIDEND DECLARATION by Ford Motor Company (U.S.) on 12 January 1995 NOTICE is now given that the following DISTRIBUTION will become payable on or after 15 March 1995.

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United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in the appropriate square on the reverse of the certificate.

All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

Dated 15 March 1995



Driving force: Paul Massey, chief executive of BSM, plans ten branch openings and 16 refurbishments this year

BSM moves up a gear with £4.9m

By SARAH BARNALL

BSM, the driving school, has managed to drive profits forward in spite of a challenging market. Pre-tax profits for the year to December 31 rose 9 per cent from £4.5 million to £4.9 million on sales up 5 per cent at £23.1 million.

The 1993 profit excluded £3.45 million of interest incurred on debt taken on board at the time of the management buyout in 1990, which was then repaid out of flotation proceeds. The company floated on the stock market in October 1993 at a price of 170p. Yesterday the shares remained unchanged at 153p.

BSM raised the number of franchised instructors 8 per cent to 2,116 and opened five new branches, taking the total to 139. Paul Massey, chief executive, said ten branch openings and 16 refurbishments were planned for 1995.

The group is paying a final dividend, due May 8, of 4.3p, making a total for the year of 6.45p. The dividend is being paid out of earnings of 12.5p a share, up from 2.2p last time.

Mr Massey said the group benefited from a positive cash flow which helped to strengthen the balance sheet.

Watmoughs poised for growth

By OUR CITY STAFF

WATMOUGH'S (Holdings), the printing company with growing interests in continental Europe, increased profits by 30 per cent in 1994, and said it expected to make further progress in the current year, in spite of the impact of higher paper and board prices.

In the 12 months to December 31, pre-tax profits rose to £20.08 million, from £15.4 million, on turnover of £179.9 million, up from £149.76 million. There is a final dividend of 6.1p, payable on April 28, making a total of 7.8p, compared with 6.6p. Earnings of 20.3p a share rose from 15.9p.

UK profits rose 34 per cent to £17.75 million, reflecting a steady improvement in trading conditions, new contracts and a further reduction in operating costs. In Spain, profits held steady at £1.58 million, compared with £1.55 million. The installation of additional printing capacity in Hungary resulted in a 36 per cent rise in profits to £755,000.

Patrick Walker, chairman, said Watmoughs was well placed to weather the higher cost of paper and board. Most paper used by the company was supplied by clients.

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[illegible]

The little magazine with a lot of powder

Perhaps the best testament to *The Spectator* comes from a man many would consider its most celebrated victim, Richard Gott. He lost his job as *The Guardian's* literary editor after his KGB links. But Gott wrote to *The Spectator* last week: "If only what is left of the Left could produce a magazine that was half as interesting — and irritating."

That wry tribute follows more concrete proof of *The Spectator's* new status. It picked up the 1994 magazine of the year award from *What The Papers Say*, the first such award since 1957. And the latest official circulation figures show the magazine averaged sales of 51,461 copies a week in the second half of last year, its best in 48 years.

The Spectator has benefited rather than suffered from the various storms it has engendered in recent years under the editorship of Dominic Lawson, who has found a way of injecting scandals at regular intervals without sacrificing the magazine's credibility. Under Lawson and Charles Moore, his predecessor, *The Spectator* has created a reputation as a "must read" among the political cognoscenti. It is also a haven for good writing, regularly discovering new talent.

Informed by a right-wing iconoclasm, its latest slogan refers to its being "politically incorrect". Lawson describes the philosophy as free-market and anti-regulatory, embodying old-fashioned liberal values, with a whiff of hedonism. "There is," he says, "a dislike of pomposity."

But the magazine also publishes scoops and shows a healthy ability to shock and to set the news agenda. Probably the first instance was Lawson's interview with Nicholas Ridley, who indiscreetly revealed an anti-Germanic streak that led to his resignation from the Cabinet. Lawson stoutly defended himself against accusations that he had published an off-the-record remark. "It brought a truth into the open for the first time," he says. "It was the

Roy Greenslade looks at the extraordinary revival in the fortunes of *The Spectator*

beginning of Euro-scepticism."

He points out that almost all the stories that have won the magazine publicity have been over matters of substance. Lord Denning's belief in the hanging of Irish terrorists, the exposure of Richard Gott's KGB links and the article by William Cash that dared to discuss the possibility of a Jewish cabal in Hollywood.

Lawson received a lot of hostile criticism over Cash's piece. He was uneasy when he first saw it and deleted some passages, but was convinced that it was right

for him — a Jew — to publish it. In the weeks afterwards, he defended himself stoutly. He is, however, prepared to admit mistakes. He regrets having published a piece by A.N. Wilson about Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, which drew on a private dinner party conversation. "It broke a valuable journalistic convention."

Lawson's approach is in line with the magazine's anti-establishment history. In 1928, Robert Rintoul quit the newspaper he then edited because he had been ordered to vulgarise it. He founded *The Spectator*, throwing it behind the radicals agitating for parliamentary reform.

Though circulation reached barely 3,000 copies, its influence was wide. When Rintoul died, the magazine was taken up for the rest of the century by three men who maintained its reputation for political and literary criticism. Its independent tradition survived several owners and editors until the late 1950s, when it became a sort of Tory party house organ.

In the early 1960s, Iain Macleod became Editor, after his refusal to serve in Sir Alec Douglas-Home's Government. After Macleod came Nigel Lawson (Dominic's father) and George Gale, but sales of 9,000 were considered poor when Henry Keswick bought the magazine in 1975. He made an inspired appointment as Editor, Alexander Chancellor, a former Reuters reporter. Chancellor is credited by Dominic Lawson with having rescued *The Spectator* from oblivion. "With few resources, he made it the repository of fine writing," says Lawson. Chancellor also hired well, taking on Charles Moore as political columnist. By the time Moore became Editor in 1984, *The Spectator* had re-established its reputation for serious political thought and debate. It also gained a cachet under Moore, a right-wing polemicist, as the organ of the so-called young Tories.

Lawson became Moore's deputy in 1987 and assumed the editorship three years later, so there has now been a chain of editorial continuity for 20 years. A *Spectator* tradition is that it pays most of its writers very little. "They write for love, or for attention, and not the money," says Lawson. He knows because he gave up a lucrative job at the *Financial Times* partly "because nobody at dinner parties had read what I had written."

If the writers did demand what they earn on newspapers, *The Spectator* would lose money. It has been only marginally profitable in recent years. Conrad Black, owner since 1988, appears to enjoy the kudos of ownership as much as the writers enjoy the cachet of being published.



The Spectator: a dislike of pomposity

Own-label and tonic, please

As consumers switch to cheaper tipples, Gordon's is trying to make its gin look trendy — and to teach barmen how to serve it

Next time you go to a pub for a gin and tonic, consider the service you get. In my experience, the first thing to happen is that the barman turns his back on you. After you've ordered, he'll present you with a half-melted piece of ice in a warm glass, splattered by half-flat tonic via a nozzle, and a slice of industrially prepared lemon.

Here are the instructions for a conscientious bartender: First, place a branded coaster on the table to face the customer. Maintain eye contact while reaching under the bar for a pre-cooled tall glass. Scoop in at least four fresh cubes of ice so they do not immediately melt. Pour the gin and offer the customer a smile. Ash!

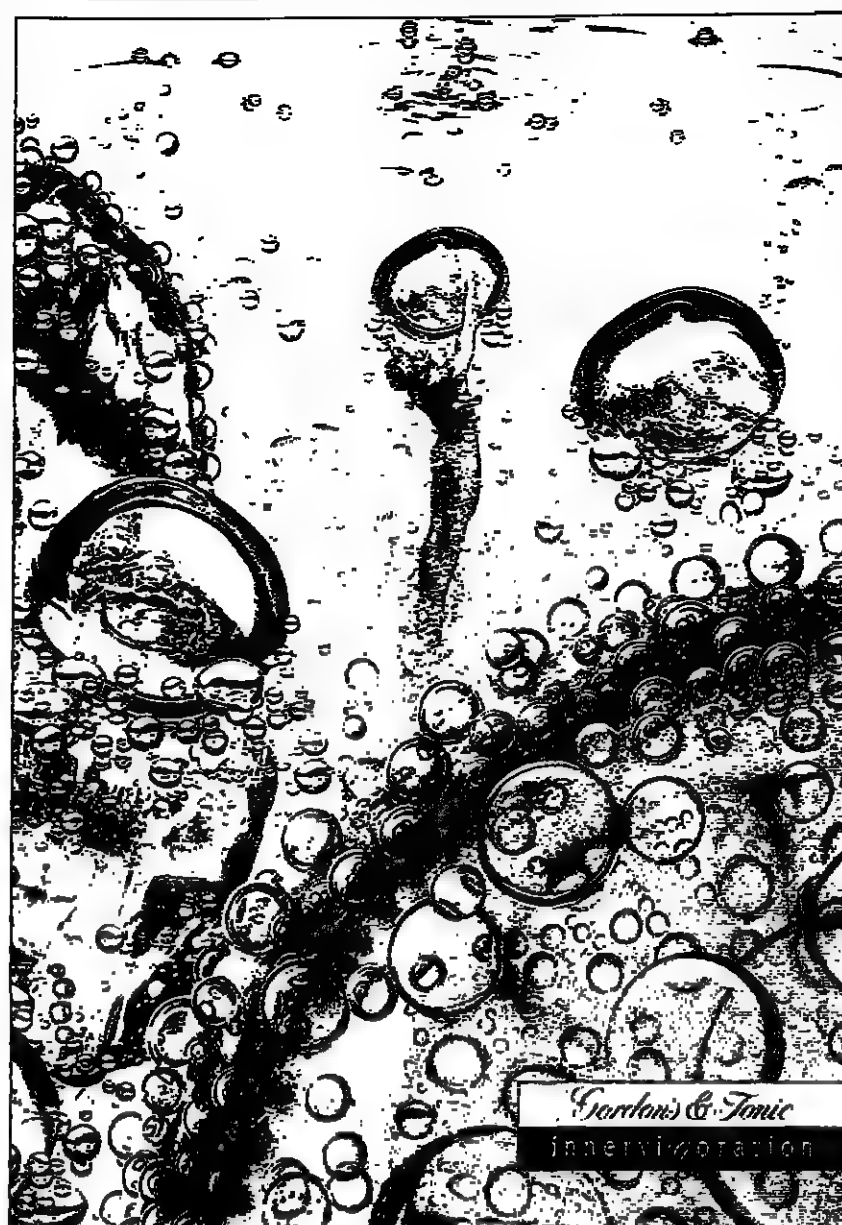
Then, open a cold bottle of tonic and add. Dab a freshly cut quarter of lemon or lime around the rim of the glass before adding it. (Slices, says Andy Neal, marketing director for United Distillers, which sells Gordon's, are out — "they are a paltry affair", he says.) Finally, stir, using a branded swizzle stick, and present with a smile.

It is the same drink but the experiences are so different that United Distillers has decided it is worthwhile paying to train staff from 5,000 outlets in the art of proper service.

So it should. Gordon's is by far Britain's biggest brand, accounting for nearly half the UK's gin consumption. Over the past five years, however, sales have fallen by a quarter as consumers have switched to white wine and vodka, and as gin marketers have failed to attract new clientele to replace them.

Gin's big problem is its image. Gin drinkers tend to be southern, conservative and they have given the G&T a stuffy, formal aura. Mr Neal says: "The gin market did not move with the times. It was almost seen as the drink for a generation that dressed for dinner."

He now faces a classic dilemma. Every attempt to make the drink appear young and trendy risks alienating the 17 per cent of buyers who devour three-quarters of the brand's total production.



Gordon's new campaign: gin lovers see a G&T as "invigorating as a cold shower"

The first attempt by Gordon's to walk the tightrope was a witty, four-year advertising campaign associating the brand with the colour green. But it has been only half-successful. "It changed attitudes," Mr Neal says, "but not behaviour."

Now, he is trying again. Research shows that consumers are seeking out stronger tastes and returning to classic values from the flashier fashions of the 1980s. It also

reveals, he says, that gin lovers see a cool G&T as invigorating as a cold shower. So this week a new advertising campaign called *Invigorator* will deploy lavishly produced pictures of swirling bubbles and ice to get the message across to the rest of us.

Which is where that bar service comes in. New drinkers tempted by the ad to try a tippie will most likely try it in a bar. They are unlikely to

be converted to buying bottles (three-quarters of all gin is drunk in the home) if they get the melted ice and industrial lemon treatment Gordon's Mr Neal believes, could be on the verge of a breakthrough.

Rivals are not so sure. Nick Johnston, the brand's director at James Burrough, the Allied Domecq subsidiary that produces Beefeater, the No 2 brand, claims that some of Gordon's decline can be put down to marketing mistakes. In its attempt to compete with vodka, the company has, he says, "promoted Gordon's as a white spirit, almost denying gin has a taste". And a decision a few years ago to reduce its alcohol content from 40 per cent to 37.5 per cent "seriously undermined Gordon's credibility in the marketplace", making Beefeater the premium brand by default.

Before the alcohol content cut, Gordon's used to outsell Beefeater by a factor of ten. It is still a long way behind, but Mr Johnston claims that nowadays it is catching up fast.

Being fuddy-duddy is not gin's only problem. Mr Johnston says: "Most consumers think a gin is a gin." The biggest threat to traditional brands such as Gordon's and Beefeater comes from cheaper, own-label products. Most of these are produced by a process called cold compounding, by which an essence is added to neutral spirits, rather than having "botanicals" such as juniper, coriander and cassia bark redistilled.

According to aficionados, cold compounding provides a harsher, one-dimensional gin flavour compared with the "real thing". But as Mintel, the market research company, comments, "the habit of drinking gin with a large measure of tonic and the lack of educational marketing by producers have left consumers unaware of the difference."

And as long as consumers believe all gins are the same, the danger is that the clever Gordon's marketers are, the more own-label brands will reap the benefits.

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According to a new book by America's best known media guru, we shall soon be scanning our own, personalised electronic newspapers. Do we want to?

A highway paved with paper

The only sure thing about the information superhighway is that it will be strewn with paper. If you want a sexy example, go and see *Disclosure*, the new film which purports to show Michael Douglas saying no to Demi Moore 31 times. The climax — not the one that appears on posters — comes when Douglas, wearing virtual reality goggles, walks into a simulated room full of electronic files and finds evidence that Moore herself is responsible for the design gaffe that is getting him sacked.

What saves his job? A printout. After the chase through cyberspace in which the villainess pursues him electronically, detecting each file as his gloved hand reaches for it, he telephones the Malaysian bureau which holds back-up files and, as he has been locked out of his own computer system, he asks for hard copies. Cascades of paper fill the screen, ending with the damning written signature of the boss herself: "Meredith".

So much for the paperless office. In his new book, *Being Digital* (see below), Nicholas Negroponte, head of MIT's Media Lab, predicts the world's media will shift from "atoms" to "bits" — that is, from print-on-paper to electronic streams of data. Of course they will. But he doesn't seem to have noticed how the "bits" generate mountains of paper in their wake. To be sure, today's great paper-spawner — the fax machine — is obsolescent. To those suitably equipped, the fax has already given way to e-mail and the Internet: messages that go from screen to screen without the assistance of an A4 slice of Finland. Unless your bank demands a handwritten signature, that is. Then it's back to paper and pen, and the creation of a document that demands to be stored in a

real, not a virtual, filing cabinet. Soon, of course, means of electronic identification will become as universally acceptable as a signature. Before long, too, letters and newspapers will be delivered electronically, rather than by hand, foot, van and train. Yet no one from MIT or any other high-tech pulpit can persuade me that, even a century from now, there will be a better way to read extensive printed text than on numbered, turnable pieces of paper.

The world's libraries on tap at the touch of a button? Easier said than done. My husband was recently advised to get a document from Washington over the World Wide Web of the Internet, rather than sent in a postbag. He called it up: the Galvin report on the future of research in US national labora-



BRENDA MADDOX

raries. Transmission began, and kept going. The warning sign "Disc full" on his computer alerted him that no mere pamphlet was crossing the Atlantic. The document filled two and a half discs: the equivalent of two 800-page books.

Who wants to read the complete works of Shakespeare by scrolling tediously forward and back, trying

to remember key words to take you where you want to go? The screen is an even worse medium for reading the daily newspaper. Restricted to just one page at a time, you can't retrieve what half caught your eye two minutes ago or yesterday. You can't cut out and keep recipes and obituaries; you can't hand a funny article across the breakfast table.

Oh, the digital prophets say, we can overcome that. The electronic newspaper will be on paper, printed out in your home. Better than that, it will be tailored just for you! It will have just the information, even the sports, that you want and eliminate all those wasted columns that go unread. Negroponte euphorically titles this electronic marvel *The Daily Me*.

Only last week *The Wall Street Journal* took the first step towards

it, introducing *The Personal Journal*, the personalised paper "for a circulation of one". As a specialised publication, such a paper obviously has its uses for the person who, say, has to keep an eye on 25 important companies. But what businessman or woman could genuinely make do without a general-interest paper carrying news of Gerry Adams, medical ethics and spring fashions? I hope all those forward-looking newspaper groans who support the MIT Media Lab's research will not fall for *The Daily Me*. If we all get — and this goes for the BBC too — only what personally concerns us, we will be left rolling around in our own tubs of butter. Luckily, newspaper sales belie that self-preoccupation. Millions of people want an overview of the world's varied activity to pass before their

eyes every day, even if they do not read most of it. And they want it on paper.

● SPEAKING of the complete works of Shakespeare, nobody who knows the warm, erudite and charming Professor Eric Hobsbawm will have been happy about his recent treatment on *Desert Island Discs*. The value of this oddball Radio 4 programme is that it reveals the private, human sides of public figures. But Hobsbawm the family man, jazz expert, country lover and eminent historian got barely a look-in as Sue Lawley was interested only in one thing: Hobsbawm's politics.

She grilled him relentlessly about his refusal to recant his Communism. Hobsbawm, driven to defend his political views, emerged as a single-minded solitary man immersed in ideology. Was Lawley afraid that she might seem soft on Communism? Or did she hope to elicit an on-air public recantation? How one would love to hear her do Galileo.

The revolution in your front room

Imagine an electronic newspaper delivered to your home. Assume it is sent to a magical, paper-thin, flexible, waterproof, wireless, lightweight display. Imagine a future in which a computer can read every news item and newspaper and catch every television and radio broadcast on the planet, and then construct a personalised summary — a newspaper in an edition of one.

It could happen sooner than you think. The slow, human handling of information in the form of books, magazines, newspapers and videos is about to be transformed by the instantaneous, electronic transfer of data. Civilisation has gained enormously from public libraries and the right to borrow books for free. But our forefathers who started this educational revolution never considered the likelihood that 20 million people might access a digital library electronically and withdraw its contents at no cost.

This change from atoms to "bits" is irrevocable and unstoppable. A bit has no colour, size or weight, and it can travel at the speed of light. It is the smallest atomic element in the DNA of information. Bits have always been the underlying parable of digital computing but over the past 25 years we have been able to digitise more and more types of information, like audio and video.

Nicholas Negroponte explains how our lives will soon be transformed by the arrival of the information superhighway

Bits transfer power from the transmitter to the receiver. Television is an example of a medium in which all the intelligence is at the point of origin. The transmitter determines everything and the receiver just takes what it gets. In fact, per cubic inch, your television set is perhaps the dumbest appliance in your home. If you have a microwave oven, it probably has many more microprocessors than your television. Instead of thinking of the next evolutionary step of television as increased resolution, better colour, or many more programmes, think of it as a change in the distribution of intelligence — or, more precisely, the movement of intelligence from the transmitter to the receiver.

The key to the future of television is to stop thinking about television as television, rather than think of it in terms of bits. In other words, your set

will be like a computer, capable of doing all the things that an advanced laptop can do.

The *Six O'Clock News* not only can be delivered when you want it, but also it can be edited for you and randomly accessed by you. If you want an old Humphrey Bogart movie at 8.17pm, the telephone company can provide it. Eventually, when you watch a football match, you will be able to do so from any seat in the stadium or, for that matter, from the perspective of the football.

When television is digital, it will have many new bits. These bits may be simple

'Your television set will be like a computer'

headers that tell you about resolution, scan rate, and aspect ratio, so that your set can process and display the signal to its fullest capacity. They may be from one of a dozen soundtracks that enable you to watch a foreign movie in your own language. They may be the control data to let you change an X-rated movie to a PG-rated one (or the reverse). Today's television set allows you to control brightness, volume and channel; tomorrow's will allow you to vary sex, violence and political leaning.

Most television programmes, with the exception of sporting events and election results, need not be in real time. This means that most television is like downloading to a computer. The bits are transferred at a rate that has no bearing on how they will be viewed. More important, once in the machine, there is no need to view them in the order they were sent. All of a sudden television becomes a random-access medium, more like a

book or newspaper, browsable and changeable, no longer dependent on time or day, or the time required for delivery.

Once we stop thinking of television's future as only high definition and begin to build it in its most general form, bit radiation, it becomes a totally different medium. We will then start to witness many creative and engaging new applications on the information superhighway.

Take the weather. Instead of broadcasting the weather presenters and their maps and charts, think of sending a model of the weather. These bits arrive in your computer-television, where they can be transformed into a voice report, a printed map, or an animated cartoon with your favourite Disney character, depending on what you require. The broadcaster does not know what the bits will turn into: video, audio or print. You decide. The bits leave the station to be transformed and personalised in a variety of different ways by a variety of different computer programmes.

Today's newspapers can also be seen in the same way. Information is consumed differently, by different people, at different times. We browse and flip through pages, guided by headlines and pictures, each of us treating very differently the identical bits delivered to hundreds of thousands of people. The bits are the same, but the reading experience is different.

One way to look at the future of being digital is to ask if the quality of one medium can be transported to another. Can the television experience be more like the newspaper experience? Many people think of newspapers as having more depth than television news. Must that be so? Similarly, television is considered a richer sensory experience than newspapers. Must that be so?

Consider a modern newspaper. The text is prepared on a computer, stories are often

shipped in by reporters as e-mail. The pictures are digitised and frequently transmitted by wire as well. And the page layout is done with computer-aided design systems which prepare the data for transfer to film or direct engraving onto plates. The entire conception and construction of the newspaper is digital, from beginning to end, until the very last step, when ink is squeezed onto dead trees. This is the step where bits become atoms.

Now imagine that the last step does not happen in a printing plant, but the bits are delivered to you as bits. You may elect to print them at home, or to download them into your laptop computer. Of course, the television broadcaster can send you newspaper bits. This guaranteed plurality will cause today's monolithic empires of mass media to dissolve into an array of cottage industries. As we go online and deliver more and more bits and fewer and

fewer atoms, the leverage of owning printing plants will disappear. Even having a dedicated staff of reporters worldwide will lose some of its significance as talented freelance writers discover an electronic venue directly into your home. The media barons of today will be grasping to hold on to their centralised empires tomorrow.

It was through *The New York Times* that I came to know the writing of the computer and communications business reporter, John Markoff. Without *The New York Times*, I would never have known of his work. However, now that I do, it would be far easier for me to have an automatic method to collect any new story Markoff writes and drops it into my personalised newspaper or suggested-reading file. I

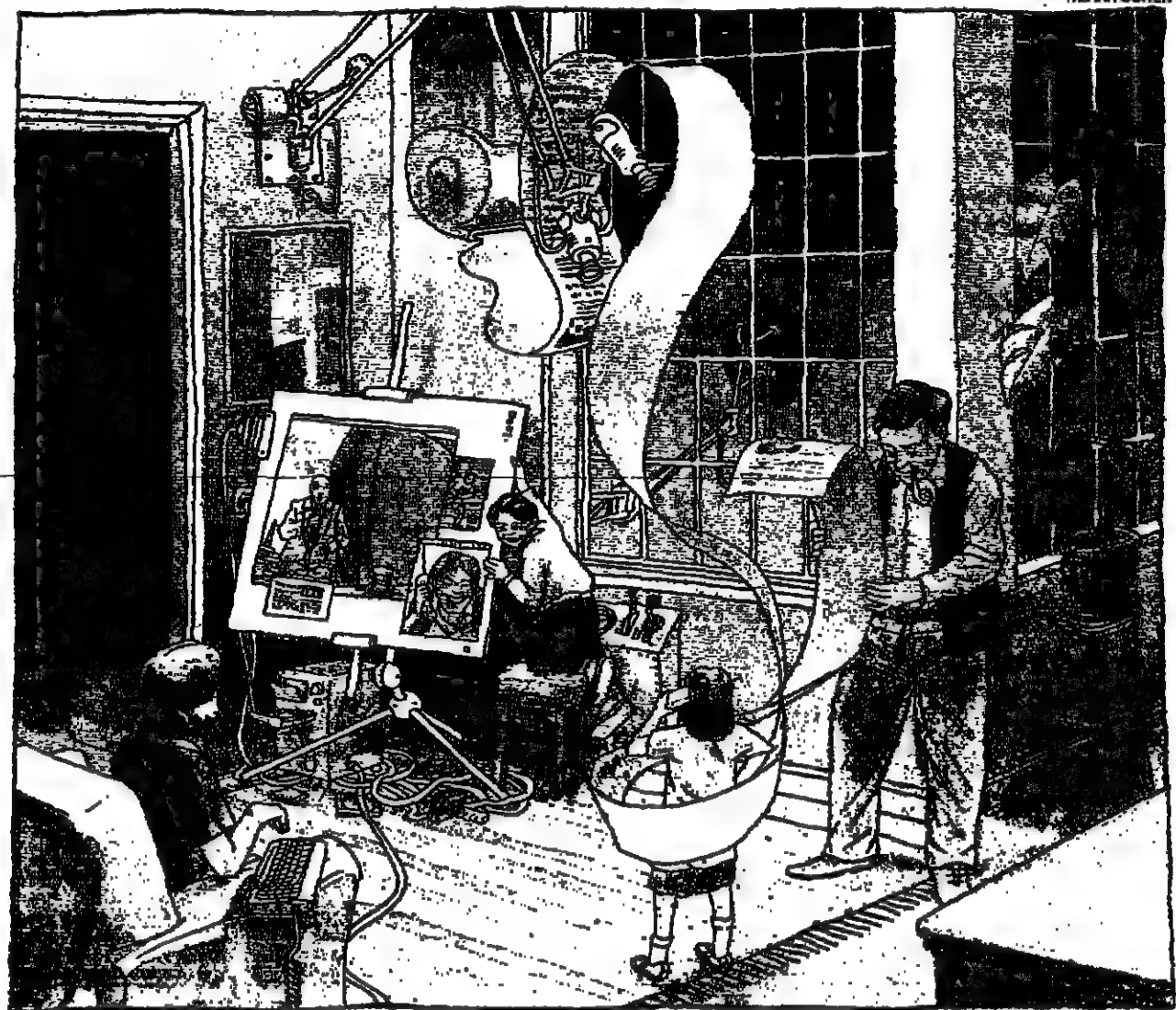
would be willing to pay him the proverbial "two cents" for each story. If one in every 200 of the 1995 Internet users were to subscribe to this idea and Markoff were to write 100 stories a year, he would earn \$1 million a year, which I am prepared to guess is more than *The New York Times* pays him. Once somebody is established, the added value of a distributor becomes less in a digital world. The distribution and movement of bits must also include filtering and selection. The media company is, among other things, a talent scout, and its distribution channel provides a test-bed for public opinion. But after a certain point, the author may not need this forum. In the digital age, Michael Crichton, author of *Jurassic Park* and *Disclosure*, could surely make

far more money selling his next books direct.

Being digital will change the nature of mass media from a process of pushing bits at people to one of allowing people (or their computers) to pull at them. This is radical, because our entire concept of media is one of successive layers of filtering, which reduce information and entertainment to a collection of "top stories" to be thrown at different "audiences". As media companies go more and more toward "narrow-casting", like the magazine business, they are still pushing bits at a special-interest group, like car fanatics or wine enthusiasts.

The information industry will become more of a boutique business. Its marketplace is the global information highway. The customers will be people and their computers.

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An edited extract from *Being Digital*, by Nicholas Negroponte, soon to be published by Hodder and Stoughton (£12.99).



THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Join Negroponte in London

How to survive and prosper from the information revolution

Wrist-mounted televisions, computers and telephones, fridges that will notice when we are out of milk and tell the car to buy some on the way home: this is the digital future. Nicholas Negroponte, director of MIT's Media Laboratory in Boston, will guide *Times* readers through the technological maze in a fascinating forum on the digital revolution and its impact on our lives to be held in London on Thursday, April 6.

The forum, which marks the publication of Professor Negroponte's latest book, *Being Digital* (Hodder & Stoughton, £12.99), will offer readers an insider's view of what it is like to live in a digital world, with universal communication available to all at the touch of a control. Professor Negroponte's talk will be followed by questions.

Chaired by John Diamond, the *Times*'s computer guru and columnist, the forum will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, at 7.30pm.

● Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50), which include £2 off the price of the book, are available by telephoning Dillons on 071-915 6613, faxing the completed coupon below to Dillons on 071-915 7880, or by sending the completed coupon with remittance to Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ. Tickets can be purchased in person at the same address.

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Parliamentary storeys

Almost every time a political story runs on the news, one building plays an essential role in getting it on the air. All day, every day, government ministers, backbenchers and politicians from all political parties come and go to record interviews, issue soundbites and to appear on live programmes.

The interior of the building is familiar to a television audience of millions. Its decoration is luxurious yet restrained: the thick carpets, the elegant stone walls, the large windows, the leather armchairs and the sweeping staircases seem to mimic the Palace of Westminster, which is only a few hundred yards away.

And yet this is not the only way in which the building challenges the Mother of Parliaments. No 4 Millbank, SW1 is fast becoming the scene of each day's unfolding political drama and an alternative centre for political debate.

When broadcast journalists first established a presence at Westminster, they found themselves pushed into makeshift studios around Parliament Square and allocated minimal desk space in the Press Gallery along with their colleagues in the written press. Life was stressful, for them and for their interviewees.

These days a government minister wanting to sell a departmental initiative or,

Should political reporting be centred on one building? asks Simon Brooke

more likely, a politician wanting to highlight a gaffe by an opponent, can hit all the main broadcast media outlets in 30 minutes or so, and all under one roof. They can do live interviews for the ITN News at 12.30pm, Sky News then the BBC's *One O'Clock News* and Radio 4's *World at One* and not miss a lunch appointment.

Most politicians can "do the rounds" blindfolded: basement for ITN and local television companies, ground floor for Independent Radio News, first floor for BBC TV and radio (national and local), second floor for Sky and, if you want, the Japanese and Australian networks.

But does this concentration of broadcast journalists have an effect on the style and even content of political reporting? The building certainly has its own internal dynamism. Stories circulate quickly. Ministers will bump into journalists on the stairs, have a quiet word and exchange gossip as easily as they would in the

lobby of the House. Journalists spotting an MP disappearing into a rival's studio might not have realised or judged that he had a relevance to today's story. However, they know that if they lie in wait for the MP, they will be able to arrange their own interview directly after. Overhearing rival correspondents interviewing a politician usually provides some ideas if you are next in the queue.

The BBC has actively promoted its Millbank operation as a centre of unfolding political drama. Many of its Westminster programmes now come live from the newsroom as reporters gather information and file stories. But former Head of Westminster, Bob Eggington, is sceptical about accusations levelled against Millbank of usurping the role of the House of Commons: "Gossip is the currency of Westminster, and Millbank is inevitably the venue for significant gossiping, but it is really just an offshoot of Parliament."

ITN's political editor, Michael Brunson, believes that the style of political reporting that makes such use of Millbank is simply due to the nature of the current Government. "At the moment, the legislative programme is so thin that the focus of attention is on the Government and its troubles, not the legislation."

Thames makes a splash

THAMES Television dominates this week's television ratings charts, which shows the highest rated programmes made by independent producers during the week beginning February 19, Alexandra Frean writes.

The company, now owned by the media giant Pearson, has recently had the unusual distinction of seeing three different television programmes from its stable broadcast simultaneously at 7pm on Wednesdays on BBC1, BBC2 and ITV. They are, respectively, *This is Your Life*, *The World at War*, and *Wish You Were Here*.

This is an impressive feat, not least because two of the three — *This is Your Life* and *Wish You Were Here* — make it into our ratings chart, ranking 8th and 13th respectively.

Another Thames production, *The Bill* on ITV,

tops the chart with an audience of 13.2 million.

The fact that Thames Television is the only independent producer to feature more than once in the chart is testimony to the fierce competition and the cut-throat nature of a sector in which a growing pool of freelancers and fully-fledged production companies are competing for airtime from the three main broadcasters.

It is a point that will not be lost on Tom Gutteridge, of Merton Films (makers of *Challenge Annika* for BBC1). Delivering a speech to the Royal Television Society on Monday, Mr Gutteridge highlighted the precarious nature of the television production business, pointing out that the independent sector operates on gross margins of only 8 to 9 per cent and net profits of just 2 to 3 per cent.

TOP 20: INDEPENDENT PRODUCTIONS

Programme	Date	Time	Chan	Producer	Genre	Aud (m) All-4
1 The Bill	Fri 24	20.02	ITV	Thames Television	Drama Serial	13.2
2 Big Night Live	Sat 25	21.03	ITV	Grand Slam Sports/LSN	Sport	13.1
3 Goodnight Sweetheart	Mon 20	20.30	BBC1	Alamo Productions	Sit-com	12.7
4 The Gambling Men	Sun 26	19.48	ITV	Fast Films & Worldwide TV	Drama Serial	12.6
5 Beyond Reason	Mon 20	21.00	ITV	Kernighan Films & TV	Drama	11.8
6 Play Your Cards Right	Fri 24	19.00	ITV	Talbot Entertainment	Game Show	11.3
7 The Quizz of Mr Bean	Tue 21	20.30	ITV	Tiger Television	Comedy	11.2
8 This is Your Life	Wed 22	19.00	BBC1	Thames Television	Entertainment	11.1
9 Talking Telephone Numbers	Mon 20	18.59	ITV	Celador Productions	Entertainment	9.3
10 Pie in the Sky	Sun 26	19.30	BBC1	Witford Productions	Drama Series	9.2
11 How Do They Do That?	Wed 22	20.00	BBC1	Reg Grundy Prod	Documentary	8.6
12 The Big Awards 1995	Tue 21	20.29	ITV	Initial Film & TV	Entertainment	8.5
13 Wish You Were Here	Wed 22	18.59	ITV	Thames Television	Entertainment	8.1
14 99-1	Tue 21	21.01	ITV	Zanith Productions	Drama Serial	7.8
15 Henry	Wed 22	21.35	BBC1	Union Pictures	Drama Series	8.2
16 The Real Holiday Show	Wed 22	20.31	CH4	Knighton/Chap One	Reality	6.7
17 Gentlemen's World	Fri 24	20.31	BBC2	Catalyst Television	Reality	4.9
18 Brookside	Wed 22	20.00	CH4	Brookside Productions	Soap	4.7
19 Network First: The Yardies	Tue 21	22.42	ITV	Observer Film Co.	Documentary	4.7
20 Food and Drink	Tue 21	20.31	BBC2	Basil Productions	Documentary	4.2

SARB (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board)/David Graham & Associates. 01823-322829. Copyright/no unauthorized reproduction. Repeats/second transmissions not aggregated. Highest editions per week only. Incomplete network transmissions marked (*).

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ARTS

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A Schoenberg triple bill
draws a virtuoso
performance from the
Netherlands Opera

DANCE page 41
Bring the dancers in
from the cold: why
London needs a
dedicated dance house



THEATRE: Broadway has gone off, but off-Broadway has laughs; well-behaved Waller; Shirley returns after 350 years

Turning off the Great White Way

Benedict Nightingale visits New York to find that the best new American drama is being made outside the sluggish mainstream

If you still think of Woody Allen as a flummoxed, winsome little blighter, a bespectacled stick insect lost in a jungle full of killer repiles, you might be surprised by his latest contribution to New York culture. Perhaps the fact that he composed his short *Central Park West* for an obscure theatre and not for the screen explains the intensity of its satiric attack. Or perhaps he is spitting out some of the feelings that built up in him during recent well-publicised events on and around the street of the title. But the insect has a hell of a sting when it comes to writing about marriage and adultery.

Central Park West is one of a trio of plays titled *Death Defying Acts* that has just opened at the tiny Variety Arts in the East Village. It is not an altogether surprising location. Broadway has been in an even longer creative lull than usual this season, though there are bangs and flashes on the horizon in the form of Stoppard's *Arcadia*, Friel's *Translations*, the Ralph Fiennes *Hamlet* and something called *Indiscretions*, which turns out to be our own Sean Mathias's restaging of *Les Parents Terribles*. You must mostly look to off-Broadway if you are to find new work that is both arresting and American.

One of the other two snippets at Variety Arts is David Mamet's *Interview*, which gradually reveals that the aloof bureaucrat in the grey suit is a supremal judge with infinite powers over the blustering attorney in the striped one. The main subject of their dispute is pernickety, incomprehensible and mad, a law-mower allegedly borrowed and buried by the lawyer in his youth, and is therefore an eminently suitable means of hoisting him with his own petard and sentencing him to eternal Hell. The play is a curio, probably indebted both to the early Pinter and to Mamet's own distaste for the legal profession, and a lot less accessible than Elaine May's *Hedwig*, which involves an insecure suicide counsellor and the upmarket hooker who comes raging and weeping across the wires at midnight.

Linda Lavin brings a roistering malice ("Why don't I have any friends? Because I'm unpleasant") to her assault on the poor man's peace of mind, without letting you forget that she is the more endangered. This is good, hard comedy, but not as hard or good as Allen's tale of infidelity among the uptown professionals. The plot is a series of neat, nasty surprises: for Phyllis, who has discovered her husband

Sam is running off with her friend Carol; for Carol's husband Howard, a weedy manic depressive with a gun; for Carol, who learns that Sam actually wants to marry a 20-year-old student; for Sam, whose baby-faced fiancée is less keen on him than he thinks.

Debra Monk's Phyllis comes across as an imposing, implacable blend of white rhino and grey granite, and the rest of the cast, directed by Michael Blakemore, is excellent. But mainly you notice that what might be cute one-liners have bite and bite — you need shock treatment, so why not wet your finger and put it in a socket? — and the piece as a whole has a sardonic brutality, I laughed often, but mostly at greed, hate, contempt and other dark patches on Allen's misanthropic map.

By comparison, most of the rest of off-Broadway suffers from that chronic American disease, the desire to charm; but sometimes only mildly. Mark St Germain's *Camping with Henry and Tom*, at the Lucille Lortel, is a

"fiction suggested by facts", the facts being that three famous men went off to brave the Maryland midges together in 1921. Henry Ford's bad driving manages to maroon them in a realistically bosky forest, giving him the chance to reveal himself as a pristine blend of Ross Perot and Oswald Mosley. Thomas Edison (superb Robert Prosky) as an embittered grouch, and President Harding as a genial giant promoted beyond his deserts or desires. As a debate about democracy, the play scarcely achieves Shavian status, but it is intelligent, amusing — and a lot better than the same author's book for Jack's Holiday at Playwrights Horizons.

The Sondheim of *Assassins* or *Sweeney Todd* would have given a musical about Jack the Ripper a crazy, dissonant edge: the late Ken Hill would have gently spoofed the legend, long held in America, that he came to New York and skewered a lady or two. St Germain and his composer, Randy Couris, do neither, nor anything else of note. They seem to want to suggest that New York was and may still be so violent and corrupt that killings pass unnoticed, shocking even Ripper: they also purport to be troubled by the symbiosis of murderers and tabloid journalism; but both points get lost amid the scowling post-Dickensian figures and preposterous encounters between Jack and the reporter pursuing him.

On Broadway itself, I caught Hal Prince's mega-revival of Jerome Kern's



The sound of gay laughter: John Glover, Anthony Heald and Nathan Lane in Terrence McNally's *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, "the best new arrival"

Show Boat and found it spoilt by lax, sentimental writing and uneven acting.

The best new arrival actually comes direct from one of the leading off-Broadway houses, the Manhattan Theatre Club. Terrence McNally's *Love! Valour! Compassion!* involves a group of friends, all gay, who gather on public holidays at the country house of a celebrated choreographer. The fidelity level is high, far higher than among Allen's heterosexuals, but cannot quite cope with the erotic impact of a young Puerto Rican. Love, valour and compassion are put to the test by other factors too, notably an aggressive, charming brother, Englishman with a mild, charming brother, dying of an AIDS-related illness.

If this comes to London, as it surely will, it should appeal to admirers of Kevin Elyot's *My Night with Reg*, though it is more superficially written. There are quips galore from one Buzz, whose traits include a refusal to believe that the whole of humanity is not secretly homosexual: "Shakespeare was gay, so was Ann Hathaway, and so was his cottage". But lines like this are put across with such spirit by Nathan Lane that they seem less calculated than they are, and the same is true of the play overall. It works strenuously to be funny, yet it is funny, very funny. The 98 per cent of the audience that did not walk out when I saw it laughed all but non-stop.

DONALD COOPER

Past pleasures preserved

The Lady Of Pleasure
Cambridge Festival Theatre

CAMBRIDGE University's Marlowe Society — celebrated for fostering talent from Derek Jacobi to Sam Mendes — is instituting a two-pronged theatrical revival this year. James Shirley's *The Lady Of Pleasure*, the talk of the town in 1635 and a precursor of Restoration Comedy with its wit, bold women and picture of decadent lascivious London, is getting an airing for the first time in 350 years. Simultaneously, the Marlowe Society is breathing life back into the Cambridge Festival Theatre, dark for more than half a century.

So the doors are flung open once more and we are dazzled. Well, not exactly. I find myself circling what appears to be a derelict institution. The main entrance is bolted. The windows are boarded. I begin to wonder if I am decades wide of the mark. As a last shot, I launch myself at a side door and am, suddenly, almost on

stage, in a dilapidated Georgian theatre.

At once cosy and dimly cavernous, it is a world of peeling peppermint paint and tarnished gold. The curve of the horseshoe galleries creates the focus of a balling. I am in the right building: just a bit early. The incoming production team have, with innovative potency, stripped out the pit for a performing arena, sunken like a swimming pool. This is a magical theatre: rich with layers of the past, spartan and scruffy enough to inspire creativity. As it stands, it could attract international experimental interest. Let us pray that the Cambridge Arts

Theatre, planning to develop the place, get the funding for equipment, and leave the decor the way it is.

This auditorium is a curiously appropriate place for *The Lady Of Pleasure*. Shirley's satire of gaudy finery and moral decay. Centred on the marriage of Aretina Bornwell, whose epicurean binge is ruining her husband, Shirley's play is swamped with the vices of vanity, adultery and prodigality before her repentance.

Shirley took holy orders before turning playwright for the King's Men. The Festival Theatre had a spate as a mission hall, the inscribed Christian saws, not quite obliterated on the walls, rebuke the wanton characters. "Prepare to meet thy maker", one reads. However, director Gordon Anderson updates the action inappropriately. The cast's contemporary designer garb has quite the wrong casual

austerity of line for the festooned extravagance of Carolinian couture. The grunge beat of 9 lazy 9's music captures erotic charge and urban sleaze. But, while the delight of Shirley's language is its cornucopia of sensual details and local colour, Tom Hadley's set is puritanically chic. The comedy is lost and narrative complexities unclear.

It is not a vintage year for undergraduate acting either. But Victoria Woodward, playing the virtuous, independent young widow Celestina — rival to Liz May Brice's Aretina — has spunky assurance, speaking verse finely with a spring in her step. And of course, Damien Hayes's nerdy Frederick, a scholar who falls prey to the frightful wantonness of the big city, is a lesson to all alumni thinking of a trip to London.

KATE BASSETT

Too bad it is not worse

If you are the sort of pedant who demands from the theatre such fancy things as plot, dialogue and characterisation — well, step primly past the Lyric, averting your eyes as you go. You won't enjoy a show comprised of nothing but 30 songs written or recorded by Fats Waller, delivered by five performers on a stage largely bare of everything except their unflagging grins and twirling energy.

On the other hand, *Ain't Misbehavin'* has already given Waller's music an unexpected resurrection on Broadway — some 1,600 performances in the late 1970s — and (rather more modestly) a sell-out run earlier this year at the Tricycle in Kilburn.

Now the Tricycle production, directed by Gillian Gregory and Nicolas Kent, has been dolled up and moved to Shaftesbury Avenue where it will surely prosper. The public's appetite for revues of old songs in strenuous routines appears insatiable. And it is appears insatiable, also no commercial disadvantage if they don't tax the old grey matter or tug the heart-strings.

Is this too churlish? *Ain't Misbehavin'* is undeniably a slickly worked, awesomely loud and cheerfully entertaining evening. But it is possible to imagine a much darker and deeper show inspired by Wal-



Slick performers: Melanie Marshall and Ray Shell

Ain't Misbehavin'
Lyric

ler. After all, the gin-soaked genius did squander his vast earnings, his family life, his health, his talent and (arguably) his racial dignity — though his clown's mask hardly ever slipped.

Not a whiff of that comes through here, except just before the finish, when the rollicking six-piece band (led from a stage piano by the excellent Clement Istumael) falls silent, and the cast wails a close-harmony version of *Black and Blue* that is memorably charged with anger. It seems to come from a different show altogether.

Elsewhere, it is not so much a case of *Ain't Misbehavin'* as a case of *Ain't Misbehavin'*. Enough. Apart from one saucy song about smoking a reefer 5ft long (delivered with a splendid glazed look by Sean Palmer), the evening comes as close to

evoking the dangerous, erotic and often sordid Harlem of the 1930s as Tony Blair does to quoting Lenin. Sometimes one of the women will gamely swivel her hips (or "shake a chassie", as Waller would say). But you would probably get more sexual thrills at a vicarage tea-party. In fact, these days, a great deal more.

However, many songs are played successfully for laughs — and laughs aplenty arrive in Ray Shell's rubber-limbed *Your Feet's Too Big*, in an exuberant, if very pre-feminist, *Find Out What They Like* (belted out by Debby Bishop and Melanie Marshall), and in Dawn Hope's tongue-twisting patter to Waller's piano classic, *Handful of Keys*. There is even an audience singalong to the song *Fat and Greasy* — words that the most jaded merchant banker might manage after a hard day in derivatives.

RICHARD MORRISON

Clive Davis on an evening with a seasoned raconteur

No cold feat for Melly

George Melly
Purcell Room

WOT, no Feetwarmers? Just for a change, Good Time George has been let loose without the accompaniment of John Chilton and his venerable gang of jazzers. With only a chair and coat-hanger for props — plus, of course, one of his most eye-catching zoot suits — Melly keeps his audience entertained with ribald anecdotes drawn from his wildly improbable life and times.

He has an ample store of tales to choose from. His volumes of autobiography contain enough salacious material to keep him on the road for the next 50 years. He should be designated a one-man red-light zone.

What made this performance so attractive was its casual, not to say untidy, structure. Melly has always studiously avoided slickness. He is no stand-up comic determined to cram every wisecrack into his routine. He creates the illusion, at least, that he is happy to pluck subjects out of the air, whether or not they lead anywhere. Even in the Purcell Room, as joyless a public space as you will find anywhere, he manages to create the same mood of conviviality that has carried

him through so many residences at Ronnie Scott's.

We began at the beginning, with reminiscences of a bourgeois childhood in Liverpool. Mother was an aspiring aes-

thete who always had rooms to spare for some wandering troupe of actors or dancers; father, on the other hand, was a quiet, unambitious man who "aimed low and missed". From the many theatrical visitors the boy acquired his early taste for the camp life. Misadventures at school reinforced those inclinations — though not for the first time he made a point of denying Peregrine Worsthorne's claim that they once shared a moment of adolescent passion. Some things are unthinkable, even for an arch-hedonist.

Melly's heterosexual exploits during his time with Mick Mulligan's jazz band in the 1950s provided another rich source of mischief, and he made an entertaining detour into impersonations of the Max Müller generation of comedians.

The evening faltered only during a closing session of impromptu questions from the audience, when we somehow found ourselves marooned in a lengthy disquisition on the merits of Damien Hirst. Then, thankfully, some one asked an obvious question about the worst digs Melly had ever stayed in, and we were back on the road.



Melly: ribald anecdotes drawn from his wildly improbable life and times

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DANCE: The compelling case for a dedicated dance house in London; a veteran is still top of the class in New York



Members of the Royal Ballet must commute to west London to attend rehearsals. Redevelopment of Covent Garden could eliminate this cumbersome arrangement

Why lock out the dancers?

John Percival urges the Arts Council not to leave dance companies in the cold but to use lottery cash to give them a permanent home

IT IS a summer afternoon in 1945. Sadler's Wells Theatre has just opened after its wartime closure and the baller season is in full swing. Ninette de Valois, founder and director of the Sadler's Wells Ballet, goes along to the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts (soon to become the Arts Council) with a proposal that her company should move into the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, when that, too, reopens early in 1946. "Oh no," comes the answer. "You have never played to audiences of more than 1,600, and on average far fewer, so how can you expect to fill a house with more than 2,000 seats?"

Luckily, as we know, things did not happen so, or there would have been no Royal Ballet, and no Royal Opera, either. But something very similar is being urged upon the Arts Council in the Lyric Theatre Review, which is commissioned and will consider this month. The understandable alarm about the possible effect of this report on English National Opera has tended to hide another, even more disturbing danger. The review's authors deal with the needs of dance rather cursorily, and the potentially disastrous implications of their recommendations on that subject have been largely passed over.

Their main comment — that dance needs several different homes in London, not just one "dance house" — is perfectly logical and, in fact, is taken from a report prepared for Dance UK, a widely representative mouthpiece for the profession. This recommends a "dance-house net-

work" rather than one dedicated flagship building — but (and this gets passed over in the Arts Council's review) only as an interim measure while audiences are built up and eventual needs more precisely established. Additionally, the review has missed the point in two vital respects.

First, it is far too cautious in its estimate of demand. Asked to consider the current and potential audience and how to meet its needs, the working party looked at past figures (during a period when financial problems made the major dance companies give fewer performances than usual) and apparently decided no expansion was likely not needed. Yet experience shows that when first-rate dance is provided in good conditions and on a regular basis, audiences grow.

Audience figures for Birmingham Royal Ballet leapt when it moved into its new home: more performances and better seat occupancy. Bold programming has had similar results at the Place Theatre in London. Paris and New York tell the same story. And the leading British ballet and dance companies, in a rare display of unanimity, have told the Arts Council that they "believe passionately" that audiences will develop immensely once arrangements for presenting dance in the capital "are brought to a proper level".

Even on the working party's own

assumptions, its argument is weak. "There is a very limited number of occasions when a house of more than 1,700 seats is really necessary," it claims — but those occasions are for the most popular works, which can help to subsidise the rest of the repertoire. Besides, with more imaginative programming, better productions and good marketing, wouldn't more works be popular?

When first-rate dance is provided in good conditions, audiences grow

Anyway, how do you define necessary? Many more seats would be "necessary" if ticket pricing allowed more of the potential audience to attend. Remember also that many dance companies which could attract big audiences do not at present come here, and cannot until there is a large enough stage and auditorium.

The second big mistake of the Lyric Theatre Review is in failing to understand the importance for dance

of theatres which it occupies by right, not just as a lodger filling in the gaps between operas. If there is to be an interim dance network, it is essential to bear in mind just why the rallying cry of "a dance house" first arose.

Partly, it was the shortage of suitable stages, but there was another motive. Everybody is too polite to say so, but dance has long suffered because the medium or large London theatres available for dance and opera were almost all run by people who favoured opera, at least since it became more fashionable than ballet, which was not always the case and may not remain so. Only Sadler's Wells has bucked the trend most of the time.

So unless dance is once more to be cheated of its needs, the fair organisation of the dance network is vital. An independent body of some sort must supervise it, and the rights of dance to specific numbers of weeks at suitable times should be written into all grant-giving arrangements.

Where then will dance find its future homes among the competing schemes for London theatres? (Dance UK rightly wants a national network too, but that is another issue). Happily everybody appears convinced that Sadler's Wells Theatre deserves priority for its intelligent rebuilding scheme, which, at not too high a cost, would provide much improved facilities for dancers and

audiences of all but the largest companies.

Until we have a big designated dance house, the London Coliseum is able and willing to accommodate these larger companies for part of the year. At present that theatre is very costly to hire, but the Arts Council's review has suggestions to cover this. Consequently the contribution the Coliseum can make to meeting the urgent needs of dance should, I suggest, overrule the idea of its improvement plans taking second place to those of Covent Garden.

Indeed, whereas money spent on Sadler's Wells and the Coliseum can produce attractive and efficient theatres, the Arts Council ought to ask itself whether the huge costs of restoring and improving Covent Garden would not be better put towards a new building. It is true that the redevelopment plans could mean that the Royal Ballet would finally be based at Covent Garden instead of having to journey to the Royal Ballet School in west London for its rehearsals. But however much money is spent on the Royal Opera House, the present theatre's outdated design would still leave many seats with inadequate sightlines.

People concerned with dance are tired of waiting to implement policies and fill needs which were identified many years ago. Now at last National Lottery funding has brought great opportunities; is it too much to hope that we can seize them with imagination, just as happened when Sadler's Wells Ballet spread its wings 50 years ago?

In the hall of the cyber king

Merce Cunningham
City Center,
New York

At 75, Merce Cunningham is a Manhattan classic, a modernist landmark, seemingly there forever. Cage is dead, Rauschenberg superseded, but a season by Cunningham's company is still a contemporary "must", social and artistic.

His current two-week engagement included several "MiniEvents" — selections of dances arranged specially for these performances, a sort of Greatest Hits medley — and a single brand-new work with the funky title *Ground Level Overlay*.

The title comes from the commissioned music by Stuart Dempster, multiple trombones recorded in a gigantic underground water tank with a 45-second echo, augmented by live musicians blowing conch shells, an intrusive aural experience unafraid of New Age connotations and pompous ethno-ecological time.

Equally dominant was the set, a commissioned art work by Leonardo Drew, a young African-American sculptor, whose dangling debris suggested an urban jungle of poetic associations. To add to these somewhat heavy-handed elements, the costumes of dark maroon and black created an atmosphere of tangible gloom, which the spirited, athletic excitement of the dancers was almost, but not quite, enough to alleviate.

This dance was choreographed by Cunningham on his LifeForm computer, his extensive involvement in cyber-dance being further proof of his youthful innovations. But, as a consequence, the dance somehow seemed computerised, especially the repeated lifting and revolving of dancers, the slow spin through the air looking suspiciously like those computerised graphics that revolve and revolve, those boringly spinning television logos.

Cunningham's troupe is clearly at a peak in every department, from morale, physical stamina and collaborative intimacy to ticket sales and the happiness of its leader. But despite the vigour and sheer physical beauty of the company, especially the ballet-trained Frederic Gafner, *Ground Level Overlay* seemed fatally compromised by the vulgarity of its score and its dangerous suggestion of narrative, only a hint of which distorts Cunningham's aesthetic.

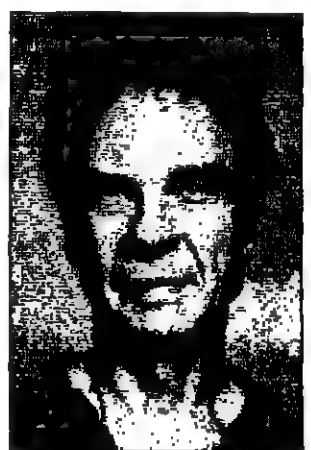
Perhaps part of the disappointment was the result of sandwiching the new work between two earlier works of unchallengeable integrity and simplicity.

Beach Birds had all the ideal elements of Cunningham: music by Cage that was largely the deployment of silence, of rustle and rice, of elegant fragility; wordless lighting by Marsha Skinner; and the most basic leotard costumes. One could watch the dancers against the brilliant backdrop and marvel at their interpretation of Cunningham's seemingly effort-

less projection of form in space, a Cubist gravity which recasts the simple pleasures of the human shape as an entirely musical element in the overall composition. With long, sustained poses contrasted with movements of utmost fluidity, the work seemed to be generated from the random beauty of Cage's score, a perfect demonstration of the art of not having to try too hard, or never appearing to.

The last work *CRWDSPCR* ("Crowdspace" without the vowels) was even more impressive, not least for the music by John King, a young avant-garde rock guitarist from a heavy-metal background whom Cunningham sets as the heir to Cage.

King's piece was astonishing in dynamics and volume alone, a thunderstorm of steel slide guitar riffs and static, a blast of sculpted noise that sounded like movement in



Cunningham: landmark

itself with all its bounce and coil, one of the best strictly dance scores for a long time. All the other elements were perfect: ice-cream costumes and vibrant hued lighting by Mark Lancaster.

Improbably, the company seemed to have been holding its real energy back for the last. Whether in a racing, rushing field of bodies that suddenly took over the entire stage, or a solo of sustained grace by Baris Ogan, this was dancing of rare calibre. At this Saturday afternoon matinee, the audience included rows of schoolgirls on an educational trip (whose giggling and whispering provided unexpected counterpoint to Cage's austere near-silence) as well as some of the hippest new choreographers, testimony to Cunningham's status both as the historic legend of school classes and the innovator who must still be followed.

Certainly when Cunningham himself, sprightly, smiling, came on stage, the schoolgirls clapped as loudly as Mark Morris, America's star choreographer, whose "Bravo!" initiated the tentative standing ovation.

ADRIAN DANNATT

CONCERTS: Strauss in the hands of a master; too much of a blast from Canadians at the Barbican; expectations unfulfilled at a birthday party

Art not without ambition

THE prospect of Wolfgang Sawallisch conducting the Philharmonia Orchestra in works by two composers with whom he is particularly associated — Strauss and Schumann — was an enticing one. Nor were we to be disappointed, except by the absence of the advertised soloist, Murray Perahia, from the Schumann Piano Concerto.

Further interest was promised by the inclusion of an unfamiliar Strauss work: his earliest tone poem, *Macbeth*. If the piece lacks the humour of *Till Eulenspiegel*, the passion of *Don Juan*, or the radiance of *Death and Transfiguration*, that is perhaps the result of the subject-matter:

**Philharmonia/
Sawallisch
Festival Hall**

the homicidal thane and his wife are not among literature's most ingratiating couples. Indeed, the composer himself tried to dissuade Beecham from including it in his Strauss Festival of 1947 on the grounds that it was an ungrateful work. One could see what he meant in a performance that nevertheless successfully evoked a dark, sombre atmosphere.

With Schumann's Piano Concerto, the danger is that

the work is almost too ingratiating. Certainly it takes a very special performance to lift the fluency of its conversational discourse above the level of the mundane. This was not such a performance. Peter Donohoe did well to stand in for Perahia and deliver an accurate and controlled account as he did. But it was little more than that: one missed the poetry that Perahia would surely have brought to bear.

Amends were amply made in the second half, with Sawallisch's magisterial reading of Strauss's autobiographical *Ein Heldenleben*, for which he drew some very fine playing from the Philharmonia. From the opening,

thrusting phrases of horns and lower strings to the final, perfectly balanced chord for wind and brass alone, it was a superbly gauged performance.

Perhaps there might have been a touch more spite in the depiction of the Hero's critics — one knows what a malevolent lot they are — but the affectionate portrayal of his companion (Christopher Warren-Green the violin soloist), the vehemence of his battles and the serenity of his final withdrawal from the world were all handled with the sure grasp of a seasoned, commanding Straussian.

BARRY MILLINGTON



Sawallisch: commanding

Snarling trumpets 'gan to chide

**NACO/Pinnock
Barbican**

electrifying as that given by another Canadian (albeit period-instrument) orchestra, Tafelmusik, when it first became known here.

Well blended the sound may be, for the most part, but Pinnock allows his first trumpet to make himself far too prominent in the sound picture, especially in a work such as Beethoven's Eighth Symphony, where his part merely reinforces cadences anyway. The symphony was given with all the attention to period style that one would

expect from Pinnock — strongly articulated phrases, nicely sprung rhythms, judicious tempos — yet without quite avoiding the sense of the journey being made on autopilot.

The same sense affected the performance by Hakan Hardenberger of Haydn's Trumpet Concerto, though perhaps for different reasons. Hardenberger's technique is supreme, and every note was in place, impeccably produced, stylishly phrased. But has he played this work too often? It

seems to hold no dangers for him, no challenges, and the result is a flawlessly tooled gem that has no edge to it.

After the interval, a six-minute score entitled *Vertige*, by the orchestra's composer-in-residence, Linda Bouchard, lifted the spirits. Inspired by patterns and movements in nature, it evokes the rude energy of rushing torrents or whirlwinds, its discords exploding like natural eruptions.

The principal trumpet seemed determined to turn Mendelssohn's "Scottish" Symphony into a second concerto for his instrument, but otherwise the performance was exemplary. Particularly striking was the way Pinnock released the demonic energies of the first and last movements, putting one in mind of Mendelssohn's great pagan celebration *Die erste Walpurgisnacht* — not least in the triumphal major-key coda.

CHETHAM'S School of Music has cause to celebrate, though you might not have known it from its Barbican concert on Monday. For the past 25 years, it has built up an educational community for young musicians known for its kindness and support as well as for its excellence. The series of anniversary concerts up and down the country this month certainly shows something of the liveliness and diversity of Chetham's music-making. But this London concert was a disappointment.

The feeling of having been slightly let down is, I suppose, a compliment in itself. Expectations are high: excellence of ensemble, sophistication of musical understanding and a degree of flair are almost to be taken for granted now in Britain's youth orchestras. So one always wants more. This time, one longed for a far more enterprising programme than the Beethoven and Elgar on offer, and for playing which really caught fire.

Julian Clayton's conducting of Elgar's First Symphony failed to convince me that this was the most emotionally and technically engaging of works to choose for this age group. Its slow movement showed off the strings' skill at sustaining a firm line and rich depth of tone, its finale their predictable nimbleness and speed of response. But the symphony started just too slowly for the violas to sustain its great tune, and for the cellos not to trudge. Despite moments of animation, and some highly accomplished wind and brass playing, the performance nev-

Must try harder

**Chetham's Gala/
Clayton
Barbican**

er really achieved lift-off. That thrill of discovery and of excited commitment which can ring out of a young orchestra, as yet undulled by

preconception or professional drudgery, was strangely missing, too, in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 4. This would surely have been just the occasion to choose a concerto for one of the school's own soloists. As it was, the ever reliable, businesslike John Lill made his way confidently and comfortably through the concerto, inspiring little but dutiful, well-behaved accompanying in this most mysterious and elusive of works.

Like the evening as a whole, this was a sadly missed opportunity. It was not the message Chetham's should be giving the world; and few were there in the audience to hear it.

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Sporting soap opera keeps audience hooked

Charlton: integrity

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

received his three-month sentence his lawyers went to Southwark Crown Court where they successfully argued for bail.

Mystery grows over the Cup
absence of Palace's £5m star

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Police swoon in big

scarf neatly at the foot of the column bearing the names. Another almost sheepishly laid a posy of spring flowers. Here was homage to fellow supporters, a tribute to people one imagines they never knew. Here was the sensitive soul of decent folk who follow the

possibly English football altogether — at the end of the season. Atkinson's four-year contract ends in the summer and he is keen to move back to the Continent. Atkinson spent a successful spell in Spain with Real Sociedad before moving to Villa in 1991.

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Howard

TOCHARISH
a. A language
b. Cheeky
c. A Scottish clan

SEAU
a. A bucket-like vessel
b. A French sandal
c. Fine artist's canvas

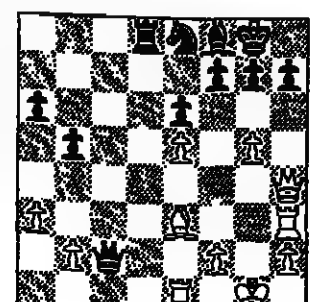
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... position which
... the chance for a
... combination. Can
... ?



Solution, page 40

Tottenham offer test of United's challenge

By Peter Ball

A FINAL encounter between Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur would be almost every neutral's favourite outcome to the FA Cup this season. There is still some way to go for that to happen, but for United, the meeting at Old Trafford tonight is almost equally important, offering them the chance to close the gap behind Blackburn Rovers at the top of the FA Cup Premiership to just one point.

"This is our chance to get closer and this time the players can't turn it down," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said yesterday. "Once or twice, we have let our rivals off the hook, but we can't afford to be so generous now. Blackburn gained another point on us at the weekend when we were involved in the cup, so this is a very big night for us."

With Tottenham tonight followed by a visit to Liverpool on Sunday, the next five days could determine the success or

atmosphere with another demonstration of his goal-scoring ability.

While Tottenham and Manchester United should offer a match of passing, intelligence and telling movement to equal anything in Europe tonight, the vital game on the fringe of the relegation zone between Manchester City and Everton will be basic British.

"It might not be a game for the purists, but it will be one for the brave and willing," Brian Horton, the Manchester City manager, said yesterday. "To that end, Horton has taken a leaf out of the approach that has guided Everton towards safety and will bring back Niall Quinn, offering the prospect of both sides aiming for 6ft 4in centre forwards."

"We have to realise from here on in that we don't have to be entertaining any more, we've just got to get points," Horton said. "I've seen their pitch and you can't pass it around on that. You have got to be more direct. We have got to do what Everton do well. They've been in trouble and they've tried to battle their way out of it. We've got to do the same."

The question is whether, even with Quinn, City have the personnel for the battle. If they lose, Everton will move above them in the table, leaving City looking increasingly vulnerable.

"It's a chance for us to move above them and that's what makes it a bigger game than the one against Newcastle," Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said. Royle will do without Vinny Samways, who has made a verbal request for a transfer after being omitted from the side that beat Newcastle United in the FA Cup on Sunday. Samways was the club's most expensive signing at £2.3 million when Mike Walker signed him from Tottenham in August.

Samways started the first 13 games of the season, but has made only two full outings since Royle took charge in November. He has been on the bench four times, but has rejected a similar role for the match tonight.

"Vinny has indicated that he sees his future elsewhere," Royle said. "He hasn't put anything in writing, so we'll have to wait and see."

Samways left White Hart Lane having earned an FA Cup winners' medal with Tottenham in 1991. He does not plan to put in an official request for a move, but said: "If the club gets an offer I'd like them to consider it."



Golac enjoys his one significant triumph with Dundee United — defeating Rangers in the 1994 Scottish Cup final

Golac forced out of Tannadice

By Kevin McCarron

DUNDEE UNITED yesterday parted company with their Croatian manager, Ivan Golac. The club denied dismissing him and a statement said the decision had been taken "by mutual agreement and in accordance with the terms of his contract". Nonetheless, it is the directors' dissatisfaction that has forced Golac out of Tannadice. Two coaches, Gordon Wallace and Paul Hegarty, succeeded Golac on a caretaker basis.

The performance of the club and fanatically optimistic manager will always provoke debate. Golac was appointed in 1993 and won the Scottish Cup last year by defeating Rangers. He was credited with bringing a

crucial gusto to United, who had lost in each of their six previous appearances in the final of the competition.

Throughout his time at Tannadice, however, United had been prone to frequent bouts of insipidity. On Sunday, Heart of Midlothian knocked them out of the Scottish Cup although United had opened the scoring. The club, eighth in the premier division table, could yet be relegated and United won just 19 of their 71 league matches during Golac's tenure.

United's statement cited unsatisfactory performances and added that action had been taken at this point, "both to preserve our premier league status and to prepare for next season. The board now feel that the future of Dundee

United will be better served under new management."

While United's failings had been unarguable, the interpretation of the causes cannot focus wholly on Golac. He said: "I just wonder what went wrong after winning the Scottish Cup last season." That had been the first trophy collected by the club in 11 years and the manager followed it by calling for United to match his own ambitions.

Tannadice has always been noted for the financial prudence that created a rigid wage structure. Golac wished for a loosening of those restraints in order to buy a better calibre of player. The excellent Gordon Strachan, £600,000 remains, however, by far the most expensive of his signings.

United's chairman, Jim McLean, was Golac's immediate predecessor and spent 22 years as manager. The relationship between the two men had looked potentially difficult from his earliest days when Golac's chosen assistant, Sean O'Neill, was never appointed. McLean and Golac do not appear to have been in open conflict but the Croat did complain that he was required to seek board approval on too many matters.

Possible successors to Golac include the chairman's brother, Tommy McLean, who has grumbled lately about the lack of resources at his club, Harts, and Jimmy Nicholl of Raith Rovers. United, though, may consider promoting their captain, Maurice Malpas, 32, to manager.

Ferguson will miss FA Cup semi-final

DUNCAN FERGUSON, the Everton forward, yesterday failed to overturn his dismissal against Leicester City ten days ago and thus play in his club's FA Cup semi-final against Tottenham Hotspur at Elland Road, Leeds, on April 9. For Everton, whose style is built on the 6ft 4in striker's aerial ability, it could be a body-blow, affecting not only their chances in the Cup but, with Ferguson to be suspended for four matches, also their hopes of staying in the FA Cup Premiership.

Everton claimed yesterday that the

striker was more a victim of his own reputation than any deliberate intent, but the match referee, Phil Durkin, has now reviewed a video recording of the incident and decided that he saw nothing to make him change his opinion that Ferguson led with his elbow and therefore committed a serious foul.

The Leeds United chairman, Leslie Silver, insisted yesterday that Elland Road is a safe venue for the semi-final. Silver was responding to remarks made by Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, who had reacted angrily to the news

that the game would be played in Leeds, claiming there could be problems with supporters travelling without tickets.

Silver said: "We can handle the situation. From an access point of view, Elland Road is probably one of the safest grounds in the country. It is close to the motorway network, so people can get here from London and Merseyside without needing to go into the city centre. The FA have chosen Elland Road because it is a fairer venue than Wembley, which would have been like a home game for Tottenham."

Sri Lanka poised to complete notable away win

By Our Sports Staff

SRI LANKA'S bowlers sliced through the top of the New Zealand batting order on the fourth day of the first Test match in Napier yesterday, leaving the touring team well placed to gain its first Test success outside its own island.

New Zealand, left to score 427 for victory after the Sri Lanka second innings closed at 352 soon after lunch, finished the day at 139 for four and are facing their fifth defeat in their last six Tests.

The only sour note for Sri Lanka was sounded by the New Zealand coach, John Reid, who voiced concern over the bowling action of Muralitharan, the off-spinner, who has taken three for 47 in the New Zealand second innings.

"We're not saying he throws. What we are saying is that there is a doubt about his action, I think quite a serious one," Reid said, adding that Muralitharan should be given the chance to prove his action was above-board.

The Sri Lanka captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, said he was not worried by Reid's comments. "He [Muralitharan] has played all over the world with neutral umpires and match referees, so we aren't concerned," he said.

The Sri Lanka wicket-keeper, Chamara Dunsinghe, narrowly missed a century on his debut when he was bowled for 91 by Danny Morrison, who then removed Pushpakumara first ball to wrap up the innings and put himself on a hat-trick.

For New Zealand, Mark Greatbatch hit six and four fours in his 46, but when he fell to a slip catch off Muralitharan, Sri Lanka quickly snapped up the wickets of Darrin Murray and Stephen Fleming.

SRI LANKA: First Innings 183 (Arjuna Ranatunga 55).

Second Innings

A P Samarawansa not out 8
D P Samarawansa not out 8
S Ranatunga 101 b Morrison 7
A P de Silva 61 b Morrison 62
M Muralitharan 25 b Morrison 14
"A Ranatunga 20 b Morrison 28
"C Dunsinghe 10 b Morrison 31
"Vass 10 b Morrison 36
"G P Wickramasinghe 10 b Morrison 16
"M Muralitharan not out 10
"R Pushpakumara 10 b Morrison 14
Extras (10 b, 10 lb, 10 w) 30

FULL OF WICKETS: 1-47, 2-52, 3-121, 4-121, 5-125, 6-202, 7-234, 8-235, 9-235.

BOWLING: New 10-121, 1-121, 1-121, 1-121, 1-121, 1-121, 1-121, 1-121, 1-121, 1-121.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 108 (C P Vass 55 for 47).

Second Innings

S A Young 10 b Muralitharan 14
D L Murray 10 b Muralitharan 14
M J Greatbatch 10 b Muralitharan 14
"Muralitharan 10 b Muralitharan 14
"P Parnell 10 b Muralitharan 14
"K Rutherford not out 10
"S A Thompson not out 10
Extras (10 b, 10 lb, 10 w) 30

FULL OF WICKETS: 1-37, 2-108, 3-108, 4-112.

BOWLING: Muralitharan 10-121, 1-121, 1-121, 1-121, 1-121, 1-121, 1-121, 1-121, 1-121, 1-121.

Umpires: D Cowie (New Zealand) and S Rendell (Australia).

Thorburn displays glimpse of old form

By Our Sports Staff

STEVE DAVIS followed Stephen Hendry as a surprise second-round loser in the Thailand Open snooker tournament when he was beaten 5-2 by Cliff Thorburn in Bangkok last night (Phil Yates writes).

After Hendry's 5-2 defeat by Ronnie O'Sullivan on Monday, Davis, winner of the Regal Welsh Open in January and runner-up in last month's International Open, could have overtaken him in the provisional world rankings by capturing the title.

However, Thorburn, down to world No 54 after a series of barren seasons, produced a stubborn defensive performance to reach the quarter-finals of a ranking tournament for the first time since the 1991 European Open.

Pay progress

Cricket: An amicable settlement to the wage dispute between county players and the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) appears likely after representatives of the sides met in London on Monday.

David Graveney, the chief executive of the Cricketers' Association, said that a memorandum presented to the TCCB before its spring meeting last week had achieved its aim of focusing attention on the players' principal concerns.

Enhanced benefits for established county players is one of four areas in which the TCCB has decided, in principle, to invest some of this year's £5.5 million increase in television revenue. The others are grass-roots cricket, the development of centres of excellence, and the improvement of television and radio facilities at Test venues.

Gregory's task

Rugby league: Andy Gregory not only returns to the Salford team at scrum half tonight, but is in temporary charge at the Willows. Despite the toughness of his coaching baptism, against Warrington in the Stones Bitter Championship, his appointment will almost certainly be made permanent before the visit of Wigan on Sunday.

Gregory's temporary appointment follows the resignation of Garry Jack on Monday night, after less than two years as coach.

Women rule

Golf: Women will act as rules officials at this year's Open for the first time. Elizabeth Earnshaw, of the Ladies Golf Union, and Kendra Graham, an employee of the United States Golf Association, will be among the rules officials on duty at the 124th Open at St Andrews from July 20 to 23.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

INTERNATIONAL BADMINTON FEDERATION WORLD RANKINGS: Men: 1, H. Hsu (Taiwan); 2, H. Hsu (Taiwan); 3, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 4, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 5, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 6, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 7, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 8, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 9, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 10, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 11, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 12, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 13, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 14, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 15, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 16, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 17, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 18, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 19, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 20, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 21, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 22, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 23, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 24, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 25, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 26, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 27, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 28, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 29, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 30, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 31, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 32, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 33, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 34, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 35, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 36, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 37, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 38, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 39, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 40, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 41, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 42, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 43, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 44, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 45, J. Hsu (Taiwan); 46, J. 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Woods sets family record straight in Arkle Chase Klairon Davis rises to occasion

By JULIAN MUSCAT

ONLY those with inside knowledge will have recognised the symmetry. Thirty years ago, Paddy Woods would put Arkle through his daily paces. At Cheltenham yesterday, his son, Francis, rode Klairon Davis to win the race named in honour of the great horse.

Of the many, memorable duels for the Arkle Challenge Trophy, none was more compelling than that between Klairon Davis and Sound Man yesterday. There was never much in it from the moment Woods urged Klairon Davis to engage his fellow-Irish challenger at the penultimate fence.

An untidy jump at the last handed the initiative to Sound Man, but, remarkably, Klairon Davis dragged himself level in spite of Woods having

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: BELL STAFFBOY (3.30 Cheltenham)
Next best: Beady Head (5.15 Cheltenham)

his whip knocked from his clutches by his compatriot, Charlie Swan. The sight of Swan on Sound Man, driving as hard as he dare, would have unnerved many a lesser jockey, but Woods, 27, kept his composure to telling effect. As a consequence, he gained his first Festival winner at the second attempt.

"When my father dropped me off at the airport he told me his Cheltenham record was two second places," Woods related. "He said I had better improve on that. Luckily I was on a smashing horse. He is pure class."

This marked the third encounter between Klairon Davis and Sound Man — and the third triumph for Klairon Davis. But his trainer, Arthur Moore, had to wait for clearance from the stewards before proclaiming his charge, a fine stamp of a six-year-old with a decidedly bright future.

"His [young] age nearly beat



Klairon Davis, nearside, leads from Sound Man in the Arkle Challenge Trophy Chase yesterday

him but he got away with it. He's one of the bravest horses in training. He's won 11 of his 14 races for me and we'll be back, please God, for the Champion Chase next year." There is no doubt he is in that league.

Sound Man, too, has a rewarding career ahead of him. His trainer, Edward O'Grady, deserves sympathy for this narrow reversal and

that sustained by Ventana Canyon in the opening novices' hurdle. These are more fruitful times for the Irish hander, whose barren Cheltenham run coincided with his concentrating more on the Flat.

One does not usually expect horses of suspect commitment to triumph at Cheltenham. It happened yesterday, when Rough Quest broke a losing

sequence of more than three years in the Ritz Club Handicap Chase. The nine-year-old, restrained away from the war of attrition for the lead, was loosed by Mick Fitzgerald to clear of last year's winner, Antonin, and Cache Fleur.

Rough Quest has taxed the patience of many a punter during his ignominious losing sequence. But it was all sweet

ness and light in the winner's enclosure.

"I think he's genuine enough; he's just a difficult horse to get fit," insisted the horse's owner, Andrew Waters. Terry Casey, who trains Rough Quest, added to the sense of bemusement when he said: "We decided not to run the horse last week but we changed our minds. It didn't look a great race."

Meticulous plan carries Large Action so close

ALL the planning and preparation so nearly paid off. Large Action improved on last year's third in the Champion Hurdle but, unfortunately, he only went one step better.

Large Action lost no caste in defeat, running as well as he had hoped, but met an exceptional horse in Alderbrook. This gave Kim Bailey and Norman Williamson their first Festival success and while obviously I wish it had been Oliver Sherwood and myself doing the celebrating, I am delighted for them both.

If ever a race went according to plan this was it — except for the result. Myself gave me a great lead all the way until approaching the last.

As we took up the running and jumped the final flight I experienced two fleeting seconds of believing I had won the Champion Hurdle. Having caught sight of Alderbrook out of the corner of my eye I knew Large Action would struggle to match that horse's finishing kick.

It is hard to explain the mixed emotions as we passed the post in second place. I was thrilled with the way my horse had performed but there is nothing worse than finishing second.

It left me with a head full of it only if. Only Alderbrook had concentrated on his Flat career then Large Action would have won the Champi-

Jamie Osborne experiences mixed emotions as the Champion Hurdle is snatched from his grasp by a rival's superior finishing speed

on Hurdle comfortably. But there is no point in dwelling on defeat. Our horse proved once again he is a top-class performer and he will be back, hopefully to win next year's Arkle Chase.

The day started with Calliope Bay's defeat in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle in which his physical weakness on testing ground was exposed. He will be a much stronger horse next season and I have lost no faith in his ability.

Carnitrov, trained by Simon



Osborne: fine second

Christian, ran a pleasing race in the Arkle, finishing third behind the Irish pair, Klairon Davis and Sound Man. He is still only a five-year-old and obviously has an outstanding future.

There were no winners yesterday but today could be completely different. One must look forward with optimism. Berude Not To, Nakir, Fired Earth and Red Blazer are today's hopefuls.

Berude Not To, trained by Oliver Sherwood, is a promising candidate for the Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle, although Dermot Weld's Irish raider, Treble Bob has to be respected, and also David Nicholson's Putty Road.

I consider Nakir has Trarado and Viking Flagship to beat in the Queen Mother Champion Chase. The Irish champion, Charlie Swan, takes over on last year's winner, Viking Flagship, because of Adrian Maguire's absence after the death of his mother, Phyllis.

One only has to think of Adrian at this time to put everything into perspective. The best wishes of the weighing room go out to Adrian and his family.

Channel 4 survives early blunders

TELEVISION REVIEW BY MATTHEW BOND

"UNDERSTANDABLY the crowd is holding its breath," said John Oaksey, as the runners for the Smurfit Champion Hurdle made their way down to the start. Those of us hoping to enjoy the Cheltenham Festival at home were holding our breath pretty understandably too. The tension was almost unbearable. Would we see at-bones actually get to it?

Day one of Channel 4's first Cheltenham Festival and things were definitely not going to plan. The problems started in the run up to the Guinness Arkle Challenge Trophy, just as Oaksey was explaining that Paddy was with fences. Suddenly the picture flickered and died. Seconds later it was back and seconds later it had gone again — and again. Third time unlucky and the producers wisely sought sanctuary in an impromptu commercial break.

With coverage restored just in time for the off, normal service appeared to have been restored and in the thrilling finish — superbly captured by the ralside cameras — all thoughts of technical difficulties were forgotten. Until Klairon Davis made his triumphant return to the winner's enclosure — and the screens went blank again.

There was a certain irony in the fact that after a race in

which a horse called Sound Man came off second-best, suddenly sound was all we had. "But what an incredibly good sound it is," said the unflappable Oaksey. Still, it was difficult to know which were louder — the cheers from the Irish crowd or the jeers from BBC Sport.

What a shame, especially after Channel 4 Racing's meticulous preparations. In the morning Derek Thompson had presented a flawless Morning Line, which took up where Lesley Graham's enjoyable late night preview left off. Not quite still in the bar of The Queen's Hotel (which is where we left Thompson) but the same jolly mix of banter and bookies, of fillies and form, Channel 4 promises that today and tomorrow will be glitch-free.

Still the Champion Hurdle was faultless, with Channel 4 finally able to demonstrate the scale of investment it has made both in manpower and technology for the Festival.

It also allowed the extraordinary John McCrick to demonstrate that his high volume version of charades is unchanged. Innocent that I am I spent some time looking for one horse he seemed to fancy — Burlington Bertie. I think his name was. But he was noisily spot on about Danoli, the joint-favourite. No a hope.

Champion hopes wane as Danoli puts a foot wrong

Andrew Longmore watches an ill-timed mistake undermine Irish dreams of a fairytale ending



TOM Foley did not know which emotion to embrace. In the end, he settled for a compromise. "We have to be happy," he said, though his eyes betrayed the reality of Danoli's honourable defeat in the Champion Hurdle.

The Irish horse, who carried the baggage of every small-time in the land, was still accorded a reception the equal of the deserved new champion, Alderbrook, but it was bled from disappointment and sympathy. The national ceiling will have to be postponed for another year.

Danoli finished third, far from disgraced. Had he not clouted the third last, had he got his head in front, Foley trusted, it might have been different. But he's proved he's a two-mile horse. If he's not, there are a lot of horses behind him which aren't two-mile horses either.

Foley, the trainer of Danoli, has become a cult figure at Cheltenham since news first bubbled out of Co Carlow that, deep in the countryside, a superhorse had been found. Foley did not disappoint, nor did Danoli, and the pair, together with owner Dan O'Neill, who has consistently refused to accept any of the many offers made for his pride and joy, forged a handsome and irresistible storyline.

Their success had a touch of the moral tale to it too, reflecting the honest, old-fashioned virtues which some say National Hunt racing is in danger of losing. Foley summoned the one tie from his wardrobe just in case he had to meet the Queen Mother, slept near his horse in the stables, went

white at the prospect of flying — he had never done so before — and expressed the passions which, win or lose, flow from Ireland through the stands at Cheltenham each spring.

Danoli became the people's hero, stopping the market in Ballyglass, where Foley used to sell his cattle before he turned to training, and carrying the Irish exchequer on his broad back when he cantered home in the Sun Alliance 12 months ago amid scenes reminiscent of Dawn Run. One in the eye for the Big Boys.

Foley and Danoli were inseparable, a rhyming couple. They had made each other and the bond was clear for all to see again in the lead-up and the aftermath of the race yesterday. While other trainers left their leads to lead the horses in the parade past the stands, Foley clung on to Danoli so firmly and for so long, talking to him constantly, that you wondered if he might join Charlie Swan in the saddle.

From there, he followed the same routine as last year, watching the race from the furthest, quietest, corner of the track. But luck obstinately refused to follow. Danoli cantered down the hill on the outside, but hit the third last so hard Swan performed miracles to stay in the saddle.

"Over two miles, you cannot afford that sort of mistake," Foley said, as he unpretentiously deflated as he

had been in victory. He answered every question, accepted every consolatory pat, though all he really wanted to do was get back to the stable and check on Danoli's welfare.

"He knocked his knee when he hit that hurdle. Any other horse would have come down. Courage kept him going." With that he was off, still fretting, still wondering what might have been if Danoli had hit the front. "Still, third in the Champion Hurdle is not bad," he added. By nightfall, he might have convinced himself.

All in all, it was that sort of day for the Irish. Good, but within a touch of being legendary. Klairon Davis, the day's banker, duly obliged after an epic struggle with Sound Man, yet the silence which greeted Tourist Attraction's victory in the first was broken only by the cheers echoing round the club house of the North Kildare Rugby Club where, eight years ago at the end of a joyous midwinter evening, the idea of forming a rugby club racing syndicate was first aired.

Twenty five began in the club, 16 survived to witness Tourist Attraction surge up the Cheltenham hill, no doubt bringing a smile to the face of John Bruton, the Taoiseach, whose cousin, David, heads the syndicate. From the humblest to the mightiest, racing remains Ireland's common language.

NEWTON ABBOT

THUNDERER
2.30 Fools Like Gold, 3.00 Tournen Prince, 3.40 Super Spill, 4.15 Ailsa George, 4.50 Agra, 5.25 Daily Sport Spill.

GOING: HEAVY SIS

2.30 CARLSBERG BEER SELLERS NOVICES HURDLE (22.50; 2m 6f) (7 runners)

1-102 REE PARADE 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 2-101 CLEAR OAK 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 3-100 FLASHMAN 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 4-99 WISE FLOUNDER 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 5-98 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 6-97 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 7-96 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4.

3.00 CARLSBERG BEER SELLERS HURDLE CHASE (23.45; 3m 2f) (5)

1-102 REE PARADE 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 2-101 CLEAR OAK 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 3-100 FLASHMAN 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 4-99 WISE FLOUNDER 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 5-98 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 6-97 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 7-96 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4.

3.40 CARLSBERG EXPORT HURDLE CHASE (22.70; 2m 6f) (5)

1-102 REE PARADE 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 2-101 CLEAR OAK 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 3-100 FLASHMAN 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 4-99 WISE FLOUNDER 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 5-98 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 6-97 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 7-96 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4.

4.15 CARLSBERG TETLEY HURDLE CHASE (23.45; 3m 2f) (4)

1-102 REE PARADE 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 2-101 CLEAR OAK 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 3-100 FLASHMAN 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 4-99 WISE FLOUNDER 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 5-98 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 6-97 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 7-96 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4.

4.50 TETLEY BITTER MAIDEN CHASE (22.70; 2m 11yds) (5)

1-102 REE PARADE 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 2-101 CLEAR OAK 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 3-100 FLASHMAN 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 4-99 WISE FLOUNDER 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 5-98 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 6-97 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 7-96 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4.

5.25 CARLSBERG PILSENER HURDLE CHASE (22.50; 2m 11yds) (7)

1-102 REE PARADE 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 2-101 CLEAR OAK 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 3-100 FLASHMAN 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 4-99 WISE FLOUNDER 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 5-98 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 6-97 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 7-96 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4.

5.50 CARLSBERG TETLEY HURDLE CHASE (23.45; 3m 2f) (4)

1-102 REE PARADE 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 2-101 CLEAR OAK 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 3-100 FLASHMAN 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 4-99 WISE FLOUNDER 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 5-98 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 6-97 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 7-96 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4.

6.15 CARLSBERG TETLEY HURDLE CHASE (23.45; 3m 2f) (4)

1-102 REE PARADE 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 2-101 CLEAR OAK 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 3-100 FLASHMAN 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 4-99 WISE FLOUNDER 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 5-98 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 6-97 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 7-96 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4.

6.40 CARLSBERG TETLEY HURDLE CHASE (23.45; 3m 2f) (4)

1-102 REE PARADE 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 2-101 CLEAR OAK 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 3-100 FLASHMAN 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 4-99 WISE FLOUNDER 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 5-98 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 6-97 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 7-96 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4.

7.10 CARLSBERG TETLEY HURDLE CHASE (23.45; 3m 2f) (4)

1-102 REE PARADE 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 2-101 CLEAR OAK 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 3-100 FLASHMAN 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 4-99 WISE FLOUNDER 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 5-98 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 6-97 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 7-96 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4.

7.40 CARLSBERG TETLEY HURDLE CHASE (23.45; 3m 2f) (4)

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8.10 CARLSBERG TETLEY HURDLE CHASE (23.45; 3m 2f) (4)

1-102 REE PARADE 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 2-101 CLEAR OAK 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 3-100 FLASHMAN 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 4-99 WISE FLOUNDER 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 5-98 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 6-97 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 7-96 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4.

4.15 CARLSBERG TETLEY HURDLE CHASE

(23.45; 3m 2f) (4)

1-102 REE PARADE 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 2-101 CLEAR OAK 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 3-100 FLASHMAN 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 4-99 WISE FLOUNDER 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 5-98 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 6-97 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 7-96 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4.

4.50 TETLEY BITTER MAIDEN CHASE (22.70; 2m 11yds) (5)

1-102 REE PARADE 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 2-101 CLEAR OAK 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 3-100 FLASHMAN 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 4-99 WISE FLOUNDER 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 5-98 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 6-97 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 7-96 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4.

5.25 CARLSBERG PILSENER HURDLE CHASE (22.50; 2m 11yds) (7)

1-102 REE PARADE 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 2-101 CLEAR OAK 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 3-100 FLASHMAN 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 4-99 WISE FLOUNDER 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 5-98 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 6-97 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 7-96 LONEY MOSS 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4.

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6.15 CARLSBERG TETLEY HURDLE CHASE (23.45; 3m 2f) (4)

1-102 REE PARADE 14 (5) Mrs J. R. Jones 7-11-4. A. T. O'Connell 14-11-4. 2-101 CLEAR OAK 14 (

Board plans revision of amateur regulations

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

AMBIGUITY has been part and parcel of rugby union's development, but yesterday the sport received its most unambiguous message yet: that it must define the kind of game it wishes to be or drift into quasi-professionalism at the whim of commercial interests.

If its administrators accept the challenge, then a new set of regulations could be in place by the start of next season. Rugby's governing body, the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB), will stage a special council meeting in Paris in August, at which it intends to restructure the concept of amateurism that is central to the game.

Administrators are increasingly aware that their own vacillations over payments have brought the game into disrepute. Indeed, Vernon Pugh, the Welshman who retired as chairman of the board yesterday at the end of the IRFB's annual meeting in

edged an infringement of civil rights by allowing professional rugby league players back into rugby union three years after their last involvement with the paid game. They can now play or referee at any level below national representative teams.

Thus such individuals as Stuart Evans, the former Wales prop who has begun legal proceedings against the board, Stuart Redfern, late of Leicester and England, and Ian Birkby, now seeking to play for Wiltshire, can apply for reinstatement and play straight away, since their involvement with rugby league ended more than three years ago. Such a move, it is believed, will satisfy the legal profession in both hemispheres.

At the same time, player allowances for representative teams have been increased, advertising on kit has been extended and the organisers of the World Cup have been told to adopt a qualifying formula for future tournaments that limits the number of matches required.

"We want to define the nature of the game we want, and when we do that we can build the regulations around it," Pugh said. "If the common will is there for a game people can play and still hold down a job, a career... then we must produce a fairly simple regulation about how much rugby individuals are required to play."

Johan le Roux, the South Africa prop, will miss the World Cup after his appeal against a 19-month ban for biting the ear of Sean Fitzpatrick, the New Zealand captain, last July was dismissed by the High Court in Wellington yesterday.

Bristol, hammered home the point by making public the findings of the board's working party on amateurism.

"We, the administrators, have brought about the present state of affairs," he concluded. "We demand the commitment: success, money, prestige, time and much more of the lives of others whose interests we should have been more respectful of, and yet seek to deny the rewards and compensation that many would expect to represent the equitable balance."

The working party's report stresses that the game is for 67 countries, not just the rich and powerful few — for the prime advocates of amateurism, such as Argentina, as much as for France, where an amateur is defined by law as someone who does not earn more than a stipulated amount. Hence Pugh recommends a reduction in the demands on players by abbreviating the season, limiting the number of international matches played in any year and introducing a more coherent touring structure.

The IRFB has acknowl-



PETE SAMPRAS powers a forehand return during his victory over Andre Agassi, a fellow American, in the ATP Champions Cup in Indian Wells, California. Sampras, the No 1 seed, retained his title and won his first tournament of

1995 on Monday with serve-and-volley tennis that produced 18 aces in a 7-5, 6-3, 7-5 triumph over the second seed. The result will encourage Sampras, whose No 1 ranking is under threat from Agassi. Photograph: Mark Terrill

Wright ready for double challenge

Richard Eaton on the talented badminton player preparing the defence of her realm

Joanne Wright today begins the defence of the mixed doubles title at the Yonex All-England badminton championships confident that she has put behind her the controversy provoked by claims that she had been receiving unfair advantages because she is the fiancée of Andy Goode, the Great Britain Olympic team manager.

How the 22-year-old from Roehampton deals with the pressure of defending her title in partnership with Nick Ponting at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham should say much about the temperament of the most exciting player in the country.

Ignoring the allegations is something she has had to do since last autumn, when it was suggested by other players that her relationship with Goode might unwittingly be assisting her with funding, advice or training.

Nothing was proved, but the suggestions did make an emotional mark. It does not show much now, however, for Wright and her partner in the women's doubles, Julie Bradbury, have climbed steadily to No 3 in the world rankings. This week her partnerships with Bradbury and Ponting

make Wright the only home player seeded to reach two semi-finals in an All-England event which has an entry of unrivalled quality.

Back in October it was different. "The publicity did affect my play and did get me down," Wright said. "It was all unfair on Andy, who is doing a good job. But when you are successful, lots of things are said which are untrue. It got on my back at the Dutch

Open." That was the tournament where Wright uttered some on-court expletives about Ponting, which brought a written warning from the British Badminton Olympic Committee, saying that further misdemeanours could affect her Olympic funding.

There have been none. Moreover, Wright has been taking measures to channel a temperament that she admits can be explosive. "I have worked with the England psychologist, Tom Fawcett, and he helped me a lot. I still shout out but use it in a positive way." The fiery side to her temperament has considerable advantages. Once it is sublimated, it helps to make her a player of considerable flair, good enough to hold her own with the best, with the Chinese, Koreans and Indonesians.

Defending the mixed doubles title will be extremely tough for Wright and Ponting against the likes of Thomas Lund and Marlene Thomsen, the Danes who have been far and away the best pair in the

world this season. However, going all the way in the women's doubles is not impossible for Wright and Bradbury, because home advantage can count for much and the English pair have given the impression of making ground on the leaders.

Julie is physically very good," Goode said. "She plays at a very fast pace and moves quicker than other girls. Jo has a bit more flair, serves better and is tactically better."

They are, however, still working on eradicating the tendency to get in each other's way when Wright comes away from the net, something that happens partly because both were used to taking the role at the back until they formed their partnership in September.

If they succeed, they may have a chance in the quarter-finals to gain revenge against the Danes. Olsen and Jorgensen, who beat them in the Far East recently, and perhaps play a semi-final against either the Koreans, Gil Young-Ah and Jang Hyo-Ok, or the Indonesians, Finarsih and Lili Tampi. If they go further than that, England may have uncovered a world-class partnership.



Wright fiery temperament

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
* denotes all-tickets

FOOTBALL

FA Cup First Round
Barnet v Manchester City (7.45)
* Leicester v Leeds (7.45)
* Manchester Utd v Tottenham (8.00)
Queens Park Rangers v Norwich (7.45)
Southampton v West Ham

English League First Division
Derby v Burnley (7.45)
Preston v Sunderland (7.45)
Swindon v Luton (7.45)
West Bromwich v Wolverhampton (7.45)

Second Division
Brighton v Cardiff (7.45)
Bristol Rovers v Cambridge Utd (8.00)
GM Vauxhall Conference
Gateshead v Stockport (7.45)

Third Division
Barnet v Alderley (7.45)
East Striding v Macclesfield
Rushmore v Albion

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Ebbw Vale v Llanelli; Llanelli v Ton Pentre.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Haverhill v Gillingham; First division: Alton v Wokingham; Cammerton v Macclesfield; Conquest v Bamber Bridge; Redcliffe v Ayrton United.

DODDRA LEAGUE: Premier division: Chesham v Gosport; Enfield v Purley (7.45); Third division: Collier Row v Harford.

SEAZEN HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cambridge City v Truro; Carby v VS Rugby; Southern division: Farnham v Newport; Salisbury v Bournemouth.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Sheffield v Pocklington; First division: Barnsley v Rotherham; Second division: Barnsley v Rotherham; Third division: Barnsley v Rotherham.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Consett v Huddersfield; Second division: Consett v Huddersfield; Third division: Consett v Huddersfield.

CARLTON WEST COUNTIES TENNIS FLOODLIGHT TROPHY: Semi-final: Lutter v Lymington; Gosport v Lutter; Lutter v Gosport.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Tottenham v Tower Hamlets; Waltham v Barnet; Waltham v Barnet.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Buckingham Athletic v Stratford; Stratford v Barnet; Stratford v Barnet.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Exeter; Exeter v Tiverton; Tiverton v Crediton; Crediton v Exeter.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Superann v West Midlands Police; Lutter v Lymington; Gosport v Lutter; Lutter v Gosport.

JEVISON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Andover v Bournemouth; Bournemouth v Andover; Andover v Bournemouth.

UNION SUSSEX LEAGUE: John O'Hare League Cup: Queen's Park v Wick v Ockbrook.

HEREFORD SPORTS UNITED COUNTRIES LEAGUE: Halesowen v Spalding; Winstonehead Kent League: First division: Conitahm v Croxall; Croxall v Conitahm.

HAMPSHIRE SENIOR CUP: Semi-final: Havant v Waterlooville; Havant v Waterlooville.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Oxford Utd v Ayrton; Winstonehead Kent League: First division: Conitahm v Croxall; Croxall v Conitahm.

SECOND DIVISION: Bath v Yeovil (at Keynsham FC, 7.45); Cardiff v Barnet (8.00); Exeter v Cheltenham (7.00); Plymouth v Harford; Torquay v Swansea.

PONTING LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn v Manchester Utd (at Wigan FC, 7.00); Nottingham Forest v Tottenham (7.00); Stoke v Notts County (7.00); Second division: Huddersfield v Bradford (7.00); Hull v Mansfield (7.00); Middlesbrough v Newcastle (7.00); Oxford v Manchester City (7.00).

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Second division: Reading v Bristol Rovers; Salisbury v Wokingham; Wokingham v Salisbury.

SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL LEAGUE: Lutter v Lymington; Gosport v Lutter; Lutter v Gosport.

BASS RUSH CUP: Quarter-final: Colchester v Ipswich; Ipswich v Colchester; Colchester v Ipswich.

5.00 The Music Machine: Tommy Pearson finds out why composers stayed in Second World War Germany.

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News: Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today and 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sports 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Midweek With Times columnist Libby Purves and guest Penelope Lively

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11.30 Gardeners' Question Time: From members of the Aberfeldy Garden Society (r)

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12.25pm The Chronicles of Clovis: Clovis's Private View Second of a six-part adaptation by Justin Greene of stories by the Edwardian short-story writer Saki 12.55 Weather

1.00 The World at One: With Nick Clarke

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and lentils, black peppercorns ("Look at them poppi") and curry leaves (*fizz, boii*). The Gujaratis easily refute Jonathan Meades's contention last week in *Without Walls* that vegetarians lead a life of unrelieved dreariness.

The pleasure of this series is not so much the recipes (which lose me a bit, as in the case of *chutney*), nor is it the stupendous images of spices in quantity. Years ago, in a 1960s report from David Lean's *A Passage to India*, I remember seeing how heaps of coloured sand were used in place of spices — the authentic reds and yellows being too expensive. But Jaffrey shows us red chillies spread out to the depth and extent of a bouncy castle; black peppercorns covering an area the size of a tennis court. At least, I hope that's what she's doing. How sad if there are heaps of sand (and a few *chutneys*) and the poor little saps in Viewfinder have been duned *all over* with it.

Lynne
Truss

Mr Newspaper"), but if the Pace-maker photographers have simply pressed the button and sold the result, are they to blame? With the ceasefire dramatically reducing the saleability of its daily output, this agency has been forced to confront its delicate moral position *vis à vis* the 25 years of Troubles, in association with which the words "train" and "grave" came unstoppably to mind.

an intrusion; in fact, relatives want the world to see a happy snap of the lost person. But it is unpleasant to speculate (as *Troubleshooters* didn't) how much money these borrowed pictures can be worth.


Since the ceasefire, the photographers obviously have a rotten time. They get soldiers in helmets to pose with peace slogans, but it's not the same. The world demanded images of war; peace requires one or two good ones, and they've

not of mottled pink and yellow paint powder, and rustled up some authentic snacks. The Gujarati cuisine is so strictly vegetarian that it eschews all root vegetables — and if you can't work that out, neither could I, but it's because digging up onions can do damage to worms and such. Don't tell G.F. Newman, he'll have a breakdown. There is some religious objection to wheat, too. But the point is: restricted mainly to beans

now heaps of coloured sand were used in place of spices — the authentic reds and yellows being too expensive. But Jaffrey shows us red chillis spread out to the depth and extent of a bouncy castle; black peppercorns covering an area the size of a tennis court. At least, I hope that's what she's doing. How sad if there are heaps of sand under these chillis (not), and the poor little saps in Viverland have been duped all over again.

CHANNEL A

6.35am **Spiff and Hercules** (2933950)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (t) (36689)
9.00 The Morning Line: The Cheltenham Festival
 Previewing the day's racing (47860)
9.30 Schools' Living and Growing (5301912) 9.46
 Write and Read (5324853) 10.02 Stage
 Science (6974047) 10.18 The Jacobites (6953)
 10.40 Living with Technology (4781757) 10.55
 and Video Showcases (6113370) 1
 Encyclopaedia Galactica (6765950) 11.15
 Music Show (6316202) 11.30 Flat-a-Ten
 (4948979) 11.45 First Edition (s) (4936134)
12.00 House to House. Maya Even discusses pol
 (34195)
12.30pm Seaside Steam. Queen Latifah is the guest.
 I, O and the number two, (10757)
1.30 Channel 4 Racing: The Cheltenham Festival
 Live coverage of the 2.15, 2.50, 3.30 and
 races (s) (403047)
4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (888)
5.00 Ricki Lake: Families Separated at Birth. Ri
 guests agree to meet the children they gave
 (Teletext) (s) (883503)
5.50 Terrytoons (870009)
6.00 All American Girl: Young at Heart. Grandma
 the man of her dreams. (Teletext) (s) (221)
6.30 Boy Meets World: Me and Mr Joad. Cory f
 for his rights as a student. (Teletext) (s) (673)
7.00 Channel 4 News Followed by Weather. (Tel
 (720776)
7.50 The Slot. Viewers' opinions. (788134)
8.00 Brookside. The growing hostility between J
 and Beth erupts on the Parade. (Teletext) (s) (6



Dutch treat for Darren and Anthony (8.30)

8.30 The Real Holiday Show. Two gay friends
 Sheffield take a trip to Holland, a young couple
 New Orleans, and a ten-year-old boy goes to
 with his family and reports from the swimming
 Presented by Gabby Roslin. (Teletext) (s) (5625)
9.00 CHOICE Dispatches. (Teletext)
 (940370)
9.45 Out of Order. Sarah Kent and Giles Aity disa
 on the subject of modern art. (Teletext) (22255)
10.00 ER. American hospital drama series. Benton
 Langworthy competes for a fellowship while
 and Hathaway's attraction grows. Starring Eric
 Sallee, Tyra Ferrell, George Clooney and Juli
 Margulies. (Teletext) (s) (4680)
11.00 Channel 4 Racing: The Cheltenham Festival
 review of the day's action (s) (3202)
11.30 Moviematch. A look at *Disclosure* and an inter
 with Kevin Bacon. (t) (s) (304688)
12.05am The White Room. Music programme in D
 Surround Sound, featuring Steve Wonder. (t
 (2841238)
1.05 The Django Legacy. A portrait of jazz guit
 Django Reinhardt. (s) (61777852)
2.10 FILM: The Loves of Carmen (1948). Rita Hayw
 stars as the passionate, amoral gypsy wh
 charms lure dragon Glen Ford into her a
 Directed by Charles Vidor. Ends at 3.50 (8971-)



A terrifying look at snakes (8.00pm)



Table 1



Dutch treat for Darren and Anthony (8)

SATELLITE

[illegible]

Accidental Hero Dustin Hoffman
(Movie Channel 10.00pm)

Discover America (4728115) 4.00 Sky Train
Guide (4838202) 4.30 Zoo Life with Jan

7.00 Journey to Australia's Inland Sea (571731B) 8.00 Around the World in 3

Cruising the Globe (4748878) 11.20-12.1

9.00mm Parting (2075912) 9.30 Madelet

Practical Guides (5216879) 1.00pm Mar

(2156912) 3.30-4.00 Ver's Life (1135028)

KID GOLD

7.000 Miles She a Gun (9856009) 7.50
Neighbours (2904844) 6.00 Sons and
Daughters (2904447) 8.30 EastEnders
(2904518) 8.30
Carnegie (2905564) 10.30 When the Best
Come In (1384047) 11.30 Terry and Joan
Carnegie (2905564) 10.30
(2907134) 12.30 The Neighbours (5250626)
1.00 EastEnders (8460380) 1.30 The Bill
(5250673) 2.30 The Heart (2178800)
1.00 The Bill (1125641) 2.30
Landing (3026369) 4.00 Dallas (4517450)
1.00 Every Second Counts (5981732)
1.00 The Bill (2904710) 1.30
(4553863) 6.30 EastEnders (1140950) 7.30
Bull Street (1306378) 7.30 Bliss The
Bill (2904710) 1.30
Top (1063699) 8.30 Joan on Laughing
(217834) 9.30 Miss Mapple (5975582)
1.00 The Bill (2904710) 1.30
Pop (776818) 11.10 The Young Ones
(3978878) 11.50 Dr. Who (158628)
1.00 The Bill (2904710) 1.30
Plane crashes in the jungle (72454622) 1.40
Carnet Cards (38515822) 2.10 Shopping

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.0000 Soaners Street (9132823) 6.55
Garfield (7607677) 7.25 Eek! (6604313) 7.50
Degrassi (5088670) 8.25 Super Mano
Brothers (4494244) 8.40 Capers (716247)
8.55
Time (81115) 12.00 Garfield (48641)
12.30cap Eek! (72457) 1.00 Beverly Hills
Teles (75791) 1.10 Super Mano (8305674)
1.30
(6216) 2.30 Babar (7726) 3.00 Capers
(1875582) 3.15 88 and Toots Excellent
Adventures (75282) 3.30
8.15 Hase (1477118) 4.00-5.00
California Dreams (2842)

NICKELDEON

7.000 Nickelodeon (1475725) 7.15 Foo-Pee
(897047) 7.45 Rugsrats (888318) 7.50
(555912) 8.30 Nickelodeon (845826) 9.00
Hase (164048) 9.30
Carnen Star (90747) (29075) 12.30cap The
Muppet Show (56979) 1.00 Shoppies
(62589) 1.30 Gals! (8470) 2.00
Hase (164048) 9.30
3.00 Gummy (8573) 3.30 Where on Earth is
Carnen Star (90747) (5699) 4.00 Rude Dog
(5699) 4.30
6.00 Clertesa (5476) 6.30 Cryssy (4040)
6.00 Doud (7579) 6.30-7.00 Are You Afraid
of the Dark? (8822)

DISCOVERY

4.00cap Wilderness (1147863) 4.30 Held In
Trust (114347) 5.00 Treasure Hunters
(2168757) 5.30 Tens X (590753) 6.05

Beyond 20
(897756) 6.30
Medicine?
(978221) 11.00

BRavo

12.00 Milano
veg is faster
than a
2.00cap The
Petrol (215)
(1122554) 4.00
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1.00 (356)
(555554) 5.30
(1131202)
1.00 The Two
veg for a
1.30-12.00

KID LIVIN'

6.0000 Age
(8561122) 6.55
8.30 Nickelodeon
(8561122) 8.55
10.05 Nore
3.00
Susan Power
(8561122) 8.55
4.00
(40261325)
Agnony Hour
(8561122) 9.00
KID 627338
8.00 A Taste
and Mitz (8561122)
Living (8561122)
Reefers 9717
3.00
11.00 Sea
Infatuation 1.00

FAMILY

5.00cap Dog
Hange (15)
5.25 AF (15)
Punk (491)
Punk (491)
Ruth (52388)
Phoebe (25388)
Phoebe (25388)
Thrive (25388)
(12252) 2.30
Lion Guard (8)
Hange (15)

MTV

5.00cap Wap
(10776) 7.30

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Clubs weigh selection dilemma

Arrests plunge
football into
further chaos

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

AS FOOTBALL'S so-called "season of sleaze" took another turn for the worse with the arrest yesterday of three high-profile players by police investigating allegations of match-fixing, the sport was faced with a mixture of immediate dilemmas and the need for long-term introspection.

For the clubs involved, difficult decisions loomed after dawn raids deprived Southampton of Bruce Grobbelaar and Wimbledon of Hans Segers, temporarily, at least. Provided that they were in a position to be selected, should the goalkeepers play in their clubs' forthcoming fixtures?

For Aston Villa, the problem was less acute. John Fashanu, the striker who was arrested later in the day, had already been ruled out of the rest of the season by injury. These,

though, were side issues. The greater pressure lay with the national game's authorities, and they were publicly united in their belief that the sport remains essentially clean. Only time will tell whether their faith has been misplaced.

The Football Association said it had "every confidence" in the way Hampshire police was conducting its investigations. Of more concern was the image of the sport and the reputation of its players. "We remain convinced that corruption is not rife in our national sport," David Davies, the FA's director of public affairs, said. "To suggest that it is can be no more, no less, than a slur on the integrity of... professional players who represent clubs up and down the country."

"They resent that slur — they are right to do so. But they also know if there is any hint of corruption in the game, it must be disposed of. That is what the current police investigation is doing."

Likewise, the world governing body urged caution. "We should not rush into the feeling that it is a problem of epidemic proportions when all we have is a few allegations which are not yet proven," Keith Cooper, a FIFA official, said. "It doesn't mean we have to be complacent, but we have to retain a sense of proportion."

"Any incident or alleged incident which reflects negatively on the game is not going to be welcomed. But we are encouraged by the way the English FA is determined to put its house in order."

The players' own body, the Professional Footballers' Association, fell into line. Brendan Batson, its spokesman, admitted being "shocked" by the developments yesterday. "This season has just been a catalogue of bad news for football and now it's taken an even more serious and dramatic turn," he said.

"Our biggest concern is that there is a growing perception that the game is riddled with corruption, and all of us involved in it know that is simply not the case."

The FA, meanwhile, said



Fashanu: already out

that it would be up to the clubs whether the players continued to turn out. "We have confidence these decisions will be taken in the best interests of the game," Davies said.

That left Southampton wrestling with the problem of who to play in goal tonight, when they continue their fight against relegation from the FA Carling Premiership with a vital match against their fellow strugglers, West Ham United, at The Dell.

Lawrie McMenamy, the Southampton director of football, said yesterday: "We will not know if he is free to play against West Ham until information is made available to us. This is up to the police and their inquiries."

Alan Ball, the team manager, said the developments had come "right out of the blue". He added: "I still don't know the full facts or what the next step will be." If he had to select Dave Beasant, Grobbelaar's deputy, he would do so "with complete confidence".

Wimbledon's next game is at home to Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park on Saturday, but Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, said yesterday that he had decided even before Segers's arrest that he would be the club's second-choice goalkeeper for the rest of the season.

Segers was left out of the side that won against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough last weekend because Kinnear "wanted to have a good look at" Neil Sullivan, the regular No. 2. "Now, if Hans is charged, I might have to get another keeper," Kinnear said. "We've only got two keepers, and when I find out what is happening I may need to get cracking. Hopefully, I won't need to. We might be talking about an innocent man. I'm going to talk to Sam [Hazzam], the Wimbledon owner, to find out the best way to handle this situation."



Tourist Attraction, left, heads Ventana Canyon at the final flight before sprinting clear to win the opening race. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Novice hurdler crowned new champion

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

ALDERBROOM carved himself a special niche in racing history yesterday when he became the least-experienced horse for half a century to win the Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham.

Trained by Kim Bailey in Upper Lambourn and ridden by Norman Williamson, the six-year-old colt, having only his third race over hurdles, quickened up Cheltenham's famous hill in front of a record crowd to outgun Large Action and Danoli, the joint 4-1 favourites.

The six-year-old colt, who raced once over hurdles in 1992 before flourishing

on the Flat, was sent by his owner, Ernie Pick, to Bailey just two months ago and had just one race at Wincanton in February prior to lining up yesterday for the hurdler's crown.

With tears rolling down his face, Bailey said: "I thought we hadn't an earthly chance of getting here when I got the horse. It was an unbelievable performance."

The victory of the U-2 shot, a first at the Festival for both his trainer and jockey, interrupted Ireland's great start to the meeting.

The aptly named Tourist Attraction, an unfancied 25-1 shot, set the ball rolling when winning the opening Citroën Supreme Novices Hurdle. Less than an hour later, the Irish trained

duo of Klairon Davis and Sound Man fought out a thrilling finish to the Guinness Arkle Chase. Klairon Davis, the 7-2 favourite, prevailing by a head.

The success of the Cheltenham Festival knows no bounds and 42,875 spectators — 6,000 more than last year — were drawn to Prestbury Park yesterday. The most competitive Champion Hurdle for years also produced record betting turnover with an estimated £10 million being invested on the race.

Adrian Maguire, who attended the funeral of his mother in Ireland yesterday, has decided not to ride at Cheltenham today where Charlie Swan will deputise for him on last year's winner, Viking Flagship, in the

Queen Mother Champion Chase. Sir Andrew and Lady Lloyd Webber, who have suffered more than their fair share of setbacks as racehorse owners were recovering yesterday from the news that Raymylee, an outstanding chasing prospect, died on Monday night during an operation for a worsening intestinal condition.

But the lasting memory of yesterday will be Alderbroom's historic win and the sportsmanship displayed by Oliver Sherwood, trainer of Large Action, as he congratulated the winning trainer. "Well done, you've just lost your place in the Lambourn cricket team."

Rare talent, page 44
Irish one-two, page 45

Reinstatement cleared by board

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) finally pushed aside yesterday the century-old door that prevented rugby league players returning to play rugby union.

At its annual council meeting in Bristol, the board agreed that professional players could ask for active reinstatement to the amateur code after a three-year stand-down.

The fact that various Australians and Brett Ince, the Auckland scrum half, had already sneaked through, will make it less epoch-making in the southern hemisphere, but, for such players as Stuart

Evans, the decision provoked immediate reaction.

Evans, 31, who has taken out a statement of claim against the IRFB in pursuit of his ambition to play rugby union again, signed for St Helens after winning nine

Clear message to rugby union 46

caps in the Wales front row. Now, the former Swansea and Neath prop wants to take immediate advantage of the redefined regulation and play before this season ends.

He left St Helens in 1991 and returned to Neath. "I'm still

looking at it with a bit of scepticism. I want to see it in black and white," Evans said. "I have faxed the IRFB and the Welsh Rugby Union, and, as soon as they inform me I'm free to play again, I will get a game in. I want to start at a low level in West Wales, but I'm totally unsure about my long-term club future."

Even were he to rediscover the form that made him such an exciting prospect as a prop in the mid-Eighties, Evans would still be barred from playing international rugby. He also believes that there should be no stand-down period, a point that was taken up by David Hinchcliffe, the joint secretary to the Parliamentary

Rugby League Group. Hinchcliffe, the member for Wakefield and whose group seeks a free gateway between the codes, said: "The proposed sentence for playing rugby league roughly equates with that for gross indecency or grievous bodily harm. Rugby union is the only sport practising such bigoted discrimination and it cannot be allowed to continue in a free society."

"Once the National Heritage select committee has completed its inquiry into relations between the two codes, I can promise, in the light of today's announcement, that MPs from all parties will be stepping up the parliamentary fight on this issue."

Smith sets sights on
Whitbread triumph

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

LAWRIE SMITH threw down the gauntlet to British industry yesterday to back him in an all-out campaign to win the next Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race.

"The start may be 2½ years away but we have got to begin planning now, testing new designs, if Britain is to stand any chance of winning the 1997 race," Smith said yesterday.

Last year, in the most recent 33,000-mile race, he finished a close second on the way setting a succession of record 24-hour runs through the Southern Ocean.

"The Whitbread is the race to win. With a decent campaign, I know my team has the skill and experience to win," he said.

The race director and chief executive, Ian Bailey-Wilnot, welcomed Smith's registration, the 25th received for the 1997-98 event. "I am absolutely delighted at Lawrie's decision to return yet again, particularly in a time frame

which will give him every chance of achieving victory."

Smith, 39, from Hampshire, skipped the British maxi, *Roithmans*, to fourth in the 1990 Whitbread race and took over the European entry, *Intram Justitia*, at the start of the second leg of the 1993 event. Of the remaining five legs, *Intram Justitia* won the two toughest, in the Southern Ocean, and improved her position from fifth to second overall.

The United States yesterday issued the strongest challenge yet to win the Mumm Admiral's Cup series off Cowes starting on July 27. Their team includes the United States yachtsman of the year, Ken Read, sailing Dave Clarke's latest Bruce Farr-designed 40-footer, *The Year of the Pigs*. It also boasts *Blue Yankee*, owned by Robert Towse, and the Mumm 36, *No Problem*, skippered by Jim Brady, now racing alongside Dennis Conner in the America's Cup defence trials.

League finals offer
conflict of interest

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

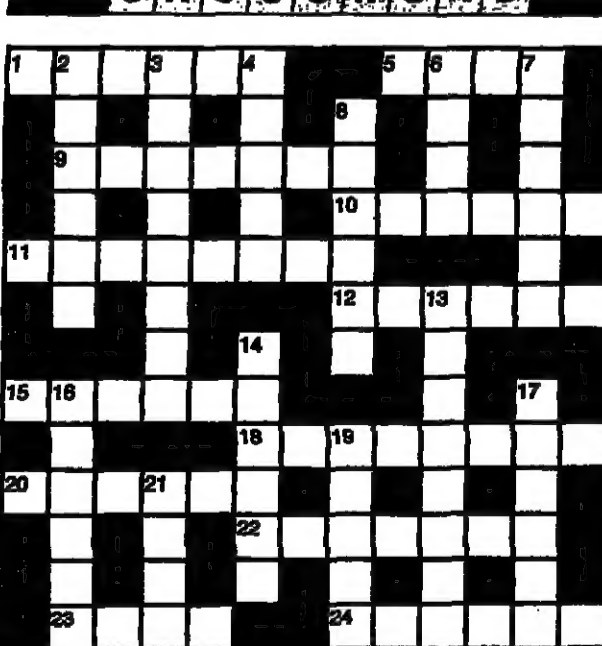
THE British men's squash championship in Sheffield next month may have been reduced to a second-level event by events in the Super Squash League. Welshback Wizards' 2-1 victory over Ellis Stockbrokers Linsfield in the last league fixture of the season put the defending champions into the championship play-offs on their own courts at Bristol over the weekend of April 7-8, but it will have a serious effect on the national, which is due to be played over the same period.

Wizards include Del Harris and Jason Nicolle, of England, among their top players, as well as the Wales No. 1, Adrian Davies. The league leaders, Cannons Club, who finished a record-breaking undefeated season by beating Rackets 2-1 on Monday, will certainly include the British champion, Peter Marshall, the Scottish champion, Peter Nicol, and the Englishmen, Simon Parke and Tony Hands, in their squad.

The second-placed club, ICL Lion Heris, will call on Chris Walker and Mark Challoner, while Ogmores Valley Dragons gained third place with a small squad entirely dependent on Mark Cairns and Philip Whitlock.

That could leave Paul Johnson, of Kent, the Rackets' club first-string and England No. 8, as the highest ranked men's seed in the national championship. Two former champions — Paul Gregory, of Surrey, and Paul Carter, of Hertfordshire — could find themselves among the top seeds again and even Gawain Briars, the British champion in 1979 and 1982, who at present blends club squash with belated law studies in Nottingham, might chase an extraordinary third title instead of prizes at age-group competition level.

The women's national championship will not be affected by the competitive scheduling of the Super Leagues play-offs.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 420

ACROSS

- 1 Adjudicators (6)
- 5 Day fatal to Caesar (4)
- 9 Origin (7)
- 10 — Pappys, Morse, Weller (6)
- 11 Short, thin strips (of veg) (8)
- 12 Man of learning (6)
- 15 Mikado suicide bird (6)
- 16 Protester (8)
- 20 With less feeling: magazine issue (6)
- 22 Crossbreed (7)
- 23 Girl: pity (obs.) (4)
- 24 Spartan serfs (6)

DOWN

- 2 Peel off (what was stuck) (6)
- 3 Shoot-out (8)
- 4 Girl: lazy, as tray (5)
- 6 Condemnation (4)
- 7 Moveable partition (6)
- 8 Calculate the worth of (6)
- 13 Instinctive (feelings) (8)
- 14 Wild (of weather) (6)
- 16 Of the eye (6)
- 17 Miscellaneous (3,3)
- 19 Bringer of bad luck (esp. aboard) (5)
- 21 Escape hastily: roll of cloth (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 419

ACROSS: 1 Space 7 Asunder 8 Chamfer 9 Bribery 11 Opale 13 Exclusive 15 Bethlehem 19 Fiscal 21 Bermuda 23 Grinned 24 Hoplite 25 Uncle

DOWN: 1 Secco 2 Adagio 3 En fête 4 Barb 5 Anubis 6 Reprove 10 Relief 12 Extend 14 Develop 16 Humble 17 Milieu 18 Scenic 20 Lodge 22 Aged

CROSSWORD BOOKS: The Times Crossword Books (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each), Books 3 & 4 £6.99 each, Book 5 £5.99, The Times Jumbo Crosswords (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each, Book 3 £6.99), The Times Crosswords (Books 1 to 5 £4.99 each), Books 6 to 10 £5.99 each, NEW Book 11 £4.50 each, The Sunday Times Crosswords (Books 1 to 5 £4.50 each, Book 6 £5.50 each, NEW Book 7 £4.50 each, The Sunday Times Jumbo Crosswords (Books 1 to 5 £5.50 each, Book 6 £6.50 each, NEW Book 7 £5.50 each). The software available for all titles for IBM PCs and Acorn Archimedes computers. Price £4.99 each — also The Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1 to 6. The Sunday Times Crossword Book (UK). Cheques with order payable to Akom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, Brixton, London SW9 6JW. Tel 0181-862 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

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